

Van Buren's Terre Haute Visit Caused Controversy

Clark, Dorothy

(T.H. Tribune - Star 6/21/67)

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In the presidential election of 1844 former president Martin Van Buren and the great Kentuckian, Henry Clay, were expected to be rival candidates. Then just before the party conventions, the two met published separate letters opposing annexation of Texas. This courageous act cost Van Buren the Democratic nomination.

"Old Hickory" Andrew Jackson, still powerful in the party, was an expansionist, and he turned away from his old friend Van Buren and threw his support to James K. Polk, former governor of Tennessee. Polk was the first example of a "dark horse" candidate for president.

Henry Clay was unanimously chosen by the Whigs. It was his third try for the nation's highest office. Our local newspaper, the Wabash Courier, was all out for Henry Clay, and the editors strained themselves to be fair in writing about the proposed visit of Martin Van Buren to Terre Haute.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

On June 11th, 1842, the Courier reported that "this distinguished individual is expected to visit our town in the course of a few days; perhaps about the 14th or 15th instant, on his way, as we understand, to St. Louis."

The Courier went on to state that "our citizens generally, of course, will be anxious to see an individual who has been a long time before the public, and whose name all are familiar with; as connected with the politics of the last 10 or 15 years, filling several important offices and particularly in the character of the ex-President of the United States. As a stranger, thus associated with the history and events of the present times, Mr. Van Buren is entitled to, and undoubtedly will receive, all due respect from our citizens, and be treated as a gentleman and distinguished stranger."

"If anything more than this shall be claimed for the ex-President, we suppose it should be sought for among his personal and political friends. And we are not aware of any principle or rule, which should prevent any gentleman, of any political party, from extending private hospitalities to Mr. Van Buren."

"Whether, however, the propriety of calling upon Whigs to participate in a public parade in the reception of the ex-President is sufficiently obvious to everyone, is quite another question. Mr. Van Buren at this very moment, under the delicate veil of a tourist, visiting the great West, is as palpably on an electioneering expedition, as ever man was, at any time, or on any occasion. This must be known to all; to political friends as well as political opponents. And it is his right and privilege . . ."

"We make these remarks in consequence of seeing posted up in our streets a number of handbills purporting to call upon our citizens without distinction of party to come forward and assist in making arrangements to receive Martin Van Buren . . ."

Clay Favorite

The editors Conard and Harris, publishers of the Wabash Courier, went on to say: "If Mr. Van Buren comes here as a private gentleman, let him be so received without parade. If, on the contrary, he comes as a public

or party man, then let his own political friends make any public manifestation they may choose . . . Suppose Henry Clay should visit our town in the course of a tour through the country? How many of our Locofoco friends would encourage the idea of a public parade reception? We think not one could be found or named, who could be thus prevailed upon. An yet perhaps Henry Clay may be considered as having done as much for his country as

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Community Affairs File

Martin Van Buren."

Joseph O. Jones and Thomas Dowling led the meeting at the Vigo County courthouse called for the purpose of making arrangements for extending to Mr. Van Buren a cordial and generous welcome. The committee appointed to make the arrangements was composed of Messrs. L. H. Scott, Walter Dickerson, A. B. Fontaine, Wm. Mullen, Joseph Grover, J. O. Jones, Capt. M. M. Hickcox, S. G. Didge and Chas. T. Noble.

The committee planned to meet the ex-President at the county line, and all interested persons were invited to congregate opposite the residence of Joseph S. Jenckes and form an escort into town. One hundred and twenty-five years later, many present-day residents need to be reminded that the county line referred to was east on the National Road and the Jenckes home was a bout where the Highland Lawn Cemetery is now.

The cavalcade was to halt at the open space in front of the residence of Henry Rose, where the procession was to form into a square or circle around a stand, the carriages containing the ex-President and committee within the circle, where the gentleman appointed was to officially welcome the guest.

After a short halt, the procession was to form and proceed down Wabash St., until it reached 4th St., down 4th to Ohio, down Ohio to 2nd, and up 2nd to Stewart's Hotel (still standing and occupied by Central Auto now!) Judge Kinney was appointed to address Van Buren at the stand. David S. Danaldson and John Mullen were appointed Marshals of the Day.

Satire for Visitor

An anonymous wit called "Nimrod" wrote a letter to the editors on the subject of Van Buren's visit. With tongue in cheek he stated that "the readers should know that it is contemplated to treat Mr. Van Buren with an excursion on the Cross-Cut Canal as far as Lockport."

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"As this canal is now finished, and thus early, in a high state of successful operation, in consequence of the brisk times, it is thought the opportunity should not be permitted to pass without paying a proper compliment to the great leader of that administration which so effectually secured and brought about such prosperous and happy days. (Note: actually there was a depression!)

Nimrod continued: "On the morning after Mr. Van Buren's arrival at Terre Haute, he will be received with a flourish of bugle horns from six and twenty canal boats now lying at the National Road Basin. After the reception of the guests, the boats will proceed with music along the canal through Harrison Prairie until they reach the Bluff . . . After taking refreshments, and going through some trifling ceremonies, the whole fleet of boats will proceed directly to Lockport . . ."

One week later the Courier printed the following: "About noon on Tuesday last (June 14, 1842) a round of some 15 or 20 guns announced the approach of Martin Van Buren to our town. The procession, which was quite respectable, entered from the east, and proceeded directly to a platform which had been erected in an open square for the purpose of reception . . . During the ceremony and reception, Mr. Van Buren stood in an open brougham by the side of the stand, with an umbrella held over him by James Whitcomb, Esq., who had been seated by his side.

The manner of Van Buren was graceful; he spoke in a clear and distinct but low voice. After these ceremonies the procession passed directly to Mr. Stewart's Hotel, but did not proceed through the several streets of the town as had been previously announced . . . In the course of the evening the ex-President was visited by his friends, and a number of our citizens from the town and surrounding country. On Wednesday morning Mr. Van Buren left Terre Haute in the Western stage for Springfield, Illinois, accompanied by some of his old friends from this place."

In spite of the Wabash Courier sentiments for Henry Clay, Polk was elected President of the United States in 1844. Whether or not Van Buren's visit here helped or not is not clear, but Clay was defeated by New York's electoral votes going democratic through the efforts of the Liberty Party and its anti-slavery platform. Had Clay received New York's votes he would have been elected.

TH Visitors

Van Buren, Martin

CLARK, Dorothy J. TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE 1-19-69

Harrison Inaugurated as President 80 Years Ago

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Under a Washington dateline, The Terre Haute Evening Gazette, Monday, March 4, 1889, quoted the following: "With simple and solemn ceremony, in the presence of all of the wisdom and authority embodied in the co-ordinate branches of the government and surrounded by the representatives of all the great nations on the face of the globe, Benjamin Harrison was today inducted into the highest office within the gift of the American people. Gathering up the reins of power as they fell from the grasp of his predecessor, he took the oath which bound him to the service of his country and charged himself with the destinies of 60,000,000 people."

Harrison's "shining hour" was dampened by a heavy rain which began when the escort was to start for the Capitol. Because of the downpour, only a few hundred people gathered around the Arlington hotel to witness the departure of the President-elect and his party.

At 10 o'clock the carriages drew up in front, and a few minutes later the Vice-President-elect Levi P. Morton clad

in a heavy ulster coming down to his shoe tops and wearing a high hat, emerged from the hotel and entered the first carriage. Behind him came Mrs. Morton on the arm of Lt. Parker.

A few minutes later a large carriage drawn by two bays drove up for General and Mrs. Harrison and the senate committee. After a brief stop at Williard's Hotel, they were driven to the Executive Mansion. Great crowds blocked the streets and vociferously cheered the party.

The President-elect rode in a closed landau drawn by four grey horses and was accompanied by Senators Hoar and Cockrell. Vice-President-elect Morton and Senator Cullom rode in the second landau

drawn by four bays. As the carriages entered the grounds, the 70th Indiana Regiment presented arms and saluted the occupants. Their recognition of General Harrison, their old commander, was particularly enthusiastic.

Upon arriving at the White House the main doors were thrown open and they proceeded to the blue parlor where they were joined by President Cleveland and his cabinet.

At 11 o'clock the entire party departed for the Capitol. As the drenching rain was still pouring down, a large white bearskin rug was placed in the carriage and two umbrellas were raised to further protect them in the open carriage.

Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Folsom watched from an upper window and waved goodbye.

The parade was formed for the march to the Capitol with half the soldiers of the Seventieth Regiment marching in front of the carriage and half marching directly behind Harrison's carriage.

The events which took place in the Senate chamber were colorful and followed the traditional procedure for such an occasion. Upon adjournment the Senators and visiting dignitaries proceeded to the platform at the east front of the Capitol to witness and participate in the inauguration ceremonies.

The oath of office was administered on General Harrison's family Bible. Five minutes later President Harrison was reading his inaugural address, the entire text of which was printed in the newspaper. The 26th President read a very long speech emphasizing his views on the tariff, the main issue of the political campaign.

In the campaign of 1888 the Democrats renominated Grover Cleveland. The Republicans insisted that American prosperity depended on high rates of tariff. They collected a record-breaking campaign fund. Although Cleveland got 100,000 more popular votes, Harrison won by an electoral vote of 233 to 168.

Meanwhile, here in Terre Haute on March 4, 1889, mock inauguration ceremonies were held at Dowling Hall by Republican soldiers and sailors. Under the management of Webb Casto the hall was filled to capacity. The audience sang "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" and gave three hearty cheers for President Harrison.

George Palmatier made a speech which he called "Grover Cleveland's Political Obituary." He said, "Mr. Cleveland is human and liable to error but I have no doubt that he is a fraud." He berated him for his pension vetoes. A quartette of soldiers sang "The Veto Sin."

The local men had something to celebrate during Harrison's term of office. For the first time in fifteen years the Republicans had a majority in both houses. They passed the Dependent Veteran Pension bill vetoed by Cleveland, nearly doubling the annual cost of pensions. They made large appropriations for warships and coastal defense, lighthouses, harbor improvements, and public buildings. Federal expenditures for one

year reached \$1,000,000,000 for the first time. The Democrats denounced the "billion-dollar Congress."

The tide was to turn again in four years. Former President Grover Cleveland won the election easily over President Harrison. The issue was still the tariff. For the first time since 1860 Democrats controlled both houses of Congress as well as the presidency.

In 1933 the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution changed the time of inauguration ceremonies by setting the terms of President and Vice-President to begin on January 20th at noon instead of in March as they had been previously. Tomorrow is January 20th, and the 37th president will be going through much the same ceremonies as Harrison 80 years ago.

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Community Affairs File

Pres. Cleveland's Visit Brought Out Pickpockets

TS SEP 29 1974 By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Cleveland's Day in Terre Haute, Oct. 1, 1887, the day Pres. Cleveland and his wife visited the city on a special train, attended a reception in the Normal School yard, and spoke to the immense crowd of spectators from all over the Wabash Valley, was a memorable event in more ways than one.

Our local newspaper, The Gazette, reported the following Monday just how eventful the day proved to be. Train travel to Terre Haute was especially heavy on the I. & St. L. Railroad. Two special trains from each direction were unable to carry all the passengers. The regular train arriving here at 7:20 a.m. and 2 p.m. from the west and at 10:08 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. from the east were all crowded. The specials from the east brought people from Greencastle and beyond and were full before they got half way to Terre Haute.

At Paris, Ill., 2,000 tickets were sold, about 1,300 for the I. & St. L. and 700 on the T.H. & Peoria. People came all the way from Shelbyville and Pana, Ill., to see Pres. Cleveland and his wife.

In all, the I. & St. L. brought about 3,000 passengers into this city. On the



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Vandalia the rush was about the same. 600 tickets were sold at Marshall, Ill., and 150 at Martinsville, Ill. The P.D. & E. transferred over 100 passengers to the Vandalia

at Greenup. On the Logan division, people came from north of Crawfordsville. Rockville turned out over 400 strong. The passenger equipment on this division proved insufficient and a special train of fifteen cabooses was started out at Rockville for Terre Haute. By the time it reached here, the cars were crowded even to the platform, and some were riding on top of the cars. The E. & T.H. hauled 2,650 people. The total from the railroads was about 20,000.

With so many visitors in the city, it's not surprising there was so much extra work for the Terre Haute police department. Beginning after noon on Saturday, a woman stepped on a lemon peel at Fifth and Main and dislocated her hip. She was taken home in the patrol wagon. According to the GAZETTE there were fist-fights, knifings, "drunkenness and insulting ladies" offenses to fill the jail before Sunday morning with over two dozen arrests. The busy police officers mentioned were Deputies Smock and Grimminger; and Officers Stoecker, Hinton, McNutt, Voit, Butler, Triemiller and Goodpasture.

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It was not until the long hectic weekend was over that the complete story was learned about the work of gangs of thieves in the city. Cleveland's Day was a harvest day for the pickpockets.

The county clerk of Effingham Co., Ill., told how he was held up and relieved of his pocketbook containing \$20 in gold and three \$5 bills. When he stepped off the train to get a sandwich, he noticed several men standing on the platform of the sleeper. One large man blocked his way, another held his arms, while a

third man went through his pockets.

A local carpenter went to the speaking and was taken for over \$100 when pickpockets stole his pocketbook from his hip pocket. In the crush of the huge crowd, he was not aware he had been robbed until the event was over.

As the Cleveland party passed the corner of Sixth and Main, an Edgar Co., Ill., man caught a man in the act of going through his pocket. When he cried out for assistance, the pickpocket's confederates came running and almost managed to save him before police arrived to make the arrest.

The pickpockets got in their work at the Union Depot on Saturday night while the trains were loading passengers to return to their homes. The next morning, 35 or 40 pocketbooks were picked up in the Vandalia yards. The hands of thieves were well organized and worked

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systematically, taking their "booty" to the Vandalia yard where a division of the spoils was probably made.

In the E. & T.H. railroad yards about fifty pocketbooks were found, mostly belonging to people from Sullivan, Ind. All the money was taken, but papers were untouched and could be identified by their owners.

Late that night a man was locked up on suspicion by Officers Connerly and Bunk. He had on him two gold watches, \$238 in gold and a small sack of gold dust and nuggets.

Six empty pocketbooks were found in an old shed between Fourth and Fifth and Main and Ohio streets. Two empty pocketbooks were found by a small boy in the Normal School yard after the speaking there.

A prominent attorney at Marshall, S. S. Whitehead, complained that he was robbed of his pocketbook on the Vandalia excursion train by four thieves just as it pulled out of the city.

Mrs. Sibley and Mrs. C. L. Husted had their pockets picked during the speechmaking and were not aware of the thefts until later. Judge Chambers and ex-Congressman Cobb, of Vincennes, lost their pocketbooks as did Prof. W. W. Byers. All in all, thieves had a field day in Terre Haute 87 years ago when Pres. Cleveland visited here.

And what did all the thousands of visitors get out of their visit here except having their pockets picked? Senator D. W. Voorhees acted as master of ceremonies and introduced Col. R. W. Thompson who welcomed the President at great length. In contrast Pres. Cleveland's speech was very brief, thanking the Hoosiers for making his visit to Indiana so pleasant. There was long and continued applause, but the presidential party was swiftly driven away in their special carriage to the depot and the train promptly pulled out for St. Louis.

As soon as the President left the platform, the people in the crowd fell upon it with knives, carving it up for mementoes and would have carried off every flag and stick if they had not been stopped by the long-suffering police.

Historically Speaking

Lincoln, Abraham

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



Community Affairs File

TS FEB 8 1976

Abraham Lincoln's first public speech was heard March 9, 1832, at New Salem, Ill., to the people of Sangamon County. He was not elected; but considering his youth (he was only 23 years old) and his brief residence at New Salem, he made a good showing. This was the only occasion Lincoln was beaten by the direct vote of the people.

In his speech, Lincoln said: "Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say, for one, that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow-men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem."

"How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition is yet to be developed. I am young, and unknown to many of you. I was born, and have ever remained, in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relations or friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of the country; and, if elected, they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But, if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointment to be very much chagrined."

On Jan. 27, 1837, Lincoln addressed the young men's lyceum of Springfield, Ill. His subject was "Perpetuation of our political institution." On this occasion he said, "... I hope I am over wary; but if I am not, there is even now something of ill omen amongst us. I mean the increasing disregard for law which pervades this country - the growing disposition of substitute the wild and furious passions in lieu of sober judgments of courts, and the worse than savage mobs for the executive ministers of justice."

He spoke of mob violence from New England to Louisiana, and in particular the hanging of gamblers by a mob in St. Louis. In Mississippi, negroes were hung if suspected of conspiring to raise an insurrection, then white men, if they were thought to be in league with black, and finally strangers from neighboring states until dead men were seen literally dangling from boughs of trees upon every roadside.

Lincoln said, "whenever vicious portions of population shall be permitted to gather in bands of hundreds and thousands, and burn churches, ravage and rob provision stores, throw printing presses into rivers, shoot editors, and hang and burn obnoxious persons at pleasure, depend on it, this government cannot last."

In June, 1858, Lincoln delivered a speech before the Republican state convention at Springfield, Ill., which had nominated him for U.S. Senator. This was the famous speech that contained the words: "A House divided against itself cannot stand."

It has been said that more has been written of Abraham Lincoln than of any man of his century, Napoleon excepted.

The books and pamphlets on his life and tragic death from a collection so vast that the titles alone would fill a volume.

One collector owned a collection of over 400 funeral orations, exclusive of poems and other tributes.

Lincoln's next to the last public address was at his inauguration March 4, 1865. The LONDON TIMES called this speech the most sublime state paper of the century. Exactly two months later, this address was read over Lincoln's grave. It ended with these famous words:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

Lincoln's last public address concerned reconstruction and was delivered April 11, 1865, in Washington D.C.

Lincoln's letters to John T. Stuart, his law partner, and to Joshua Speed, for four years his room-mate at Springfield and always his considerate and consistent friend, are most enlightening in giving his views of the times in which they lived.

Stuart and Lincoln ran together for the legislature in 1834, fought together in the Black Hawk War and formed a lasting friendship. Stuart advised Lincoln to study law, helped him with books and made him his partner, an agreement which continued until 1841.

The Speed family were Kentucky farmers. Joshua Speed's brother, John Speed,

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was appointed attorney general of the U.S. in 1864 by Lincoln.

His law partner from 1841 to 1845 was Stephen T. Logan.

Lincoln's words continued to be used by later political figures. In 1904, Theodore Roosevelt said, "... but I owed my election above all to Abraham Lincoln's plain people, to the folk who worked hard on farm, in shop, or on the railroads or owned little stores, little businesses which they managed themselves."

Soon after his inauguration in 1905, Roosevelt wrote, "My supporters are to be found in the overwhelming majority among those whom Abraham Lincoln called the plain people the farmers, lumbermen, mechanics, ranchmen, miners."

I'm indebted to Charles Kimmerle for loaning me his copy of LETTERS AND ADDRESSES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN by H. W. Bell, published in 1903 in New York.

2-6-77-T.S.

Historically Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



After President Abraham Lincoln's death, John Hays, formerly one of his private secretaries, wrote out some of his recollections of Lincoln's daily personal and official habits as President of the United States.

In 1866, Hay was in Paris serving as Secretary of the U.S. Legation when he wrote the following in a letter to William Herndon.

"Lincoln used to go to bed ordinarily from 10 until 11 o'clock unless he happened to be kept up by important news, in which case he would frequently remain at the War Department until 1 or 2 a.m. He rose early. When he lived in the country at the Soldiers' Home, he would be up and dressed, eat his breakfast (which was extremely frugal—an egg, a piece of toast, coffee, etc.), and ride into Washington, all before 8 o'clock."

In the winter at the White House he was not quite so early. He did not sleep very well, but spent a good while in bed. Tad usually slept with him. He would lie around the office until he fell asleep and Lincoln would shoulder him and take him off to bed."

"He pretended to begin business at 10 o'clock in the morning, but in reality the anterooms and halls were full before that hour—people anxious to get the first axe ground. He was extremely unmethodical; it was a four year's struggle on Nicolay's part and mine to get him to adopt some systematic rules. He would break through every regulation as fast as it was made."

"Anything that kept the people themselves away from him he disapproved, although they nearly annoyed the life out of him by unreasonable

complaints and requests."

"The House remained full of people nearly all day. At noon the President took a little lunch—a biscuit, a glass of milk in winter, some fruit or grapes in summer. He dined at from 5 to 6 and we went off to our dinner also."

"Before dinner was over, members and Senators would come back and take up the whole evening. Sometimes, though rarely, he shut himself up and would see no one. Sometimes he would run away

theater for the sake of a little rest."

"He was very abstemious, ate less than anyone I know. Drank nothing but water, not from principle, but because he did not like wine or spirits."

William H. Herndon, born in Greensburg, Kentucky, in 1816, first saw Lincoln in 1832. At that time Lincoln was serving as a pilot of a small steamer on the Sangamon River, working as an assistant to Rowan Herndon, William's cousin.

Herndon took up the study of law, and in 1844 Lincoln took the young man into his law office in Springfield. Thus the law firm of Lincoln and Herndon was established and lasted until Lincoln's death.

For more than 16 years prior to Lincoln's departure from Springfield to take up his duties as President, Herndon was almost a constant companion and observer of this remarkable man.

The following is a description of Lincoln written by Herndon in 1865: "he was about six feet four inches high, and when he left the city, was 51 years old, having good health and no gray hairs or but few on his head; he was thin, wiry, sinewy, raw and

big heavy-boned, thin through the breast to the back and narrow across the shoulders, standing he leaned forward; was what may be called stoop-shouldered, inclining to the consumptively built, his usual weight being about 160 or 180 pounds..."

"His organism and structure were loose and leatherly; his body was well shrunk, cadaverous and shriveled, having very dark skin, dry and tough, wrinkled and lying somewhat in flabby folds; dark hair, the man looking woe-struck."

"The whole man, body and mind, worked slowly, creakingly, as if it needed oiling. Physically he was a very powerful man, lifting, as said, with ease four or six hundred pounds...When this man moved and walked along he moved and walked cautiously, but firmly, his long and big bony arms and hands on them, hanging like giant hands, swung by his side; he walked with even tread, the inner sides of his feet being parallel; he put his whole foot down flat at once, not landing

on his heel; he likewise lifted his foot all at once, not rising from the toe, and hence he had no spring to his walk; he had the economy of full lift of foot though he had no spring to his walk or apparent ease of motion in his tread; he walked undulatory, up and down in motion, catching and pocketing time, weariness all up and down his person preventing them from locating."

"Lincoln's head was long and tall and he wore a 7 1/8 hat size. His hair was dark, almost black, and his cheekbones were high, sharp and prominent as were his eyebrows; his jaws were long,

upcurved and massive; his nose was large, and ran long and blunt, a little awry toward the right eye; his ears were large and ran out nearly at right angles from the sides of his head, caused by heavy hats in which he carried his big cotton handkerchief, his bank book, his letters, and his memoranda generally, and partly by nature...his little gray eyes were in the right place. There was the lone mole on his right cheek just a little above the right corner of his mouth and Adam's apple on his throat."

Herndon concluded his description of Lincoln by saying that emotion and deep feeling caused his face to light up... "then it was that all those apparently ugly or homely features sprang into organs of beauty, or sank themselves into the sea of his inspiration that on such occasions flooded up his manly face. Sometimes it didn't appear to me that Lincoln was just fresh from the presence and hands of his Creator."

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Taking an historic look at Miss Mary Todd (Lincoln)

Clark, Dorothy

To FEB 12 1978

Community Affairs File



Abraham Lincoln met Miss Mary Todd in Springfield, Ill., when she was visiting her sister, Mrs. Edwards, the wife of a member of the state legislature. Miss Todd's home was in Kentucky.

They became engaged, but there were many disagreements, and Lincoln grew depressed, almost to the point of insanity. The marriage was set for the first of January, 1841, but did not take place.

After the breaking of the engagement, Lincoln's melancholy grew profound and his correspondence during this period gives an idea of that black depression which at periods throughout his life took possession of him.

One of Miss Todd's many admirers was James Shields, an Irishman, small of stature, but belligerent. She and one of her friends ridiculed him in a local paper, as was the custom of the day.

When Shields demanded the name of the writer in great anger, Lincoln claimed authorship to protect Miss Todd. Shields promptly challenged him to a duel.

Lincoln had a choice of weapons, since he was the one who was challenged, and chose broadswords. Considering the extreme disparity in their height and reach of arm, the absurdity of this choice is evident.

The little Irishman, nothing daunted, accepted the terms and the ill-assorted pair met. It is related that while they waited for the seconds to measure the ground, Lincoln with assumed absent mindedness, rose from the log on which he sat, drew his sword, felt its edge with his thumb, and pulling himself up to his full height of six feet, four inches, chopped off a twig at an almost incredible distance above his head, watching Shields with a humorous twinkle in his eye.

But his undismayed antagonist did not withdraw until friends interfered and refused to let the farce go any farther. James Shields afterwards

served his country as senator from two states and rose to be a general in the Mexican War and the Civil War.

As for Lincoln, the duel drew him and Miss Todd together again, and they married following the reconciliation on Nov. 4, 1842.

The story of the duel was used against him politically in later years, and Lincoln grew sensitive about the subject.

Following the series of debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Arnold Douglas, another suitor of Mary Todd, the results of the 1860 election illustrated the disparity between the popular vote and the electoral vote.

Lincoln received 1,857,610 popular votes, 180 electoral votes; Douglas received 1,365,976 popular, 12 electoral; Breckenridge received 847,953 popular, 72 electoral; and Bell

received 590,631 popular, 39 electoral.

Tragedy continued to stalk the Lincoln family. Their second son, Edward Baker Lincoln, died in 1850, the year their son, William Wallace Lincoln, was born, only to die in the White House in 1862.

Robert Todd Lincoln was born in 1843. His brother, Thomas "Tad" Lincoln, was born in 1853 and became the family "pet" because of his speech impediment and his mischievous nature. He died in 1871.

Mrs. Lincoln died July 16, 1882. She never recovered from the shock of her husband's assassination, and developed curious eccentricities.

She never went out into the sunlight after his death, but would sit in broad daylight in a darkened room lighted dimly by candles. She accumulated a

vast number of elaborate gowns which she never wore or intended to wear, and in other ways showed a mind deranged.

Colonel Richard W. Thompson in his "Personal Recollections of Sixteen Presidents" published in 1894 stated:

"Some considered Lincoln to have been a wit, but I do not think so, but rather he was a humorist. They base their opinion upon the fact that he frequently illustrated his meanings by anecdotes, which were always appropriate... They were result of memory. He had stored them away in his mind... until some suitable occasion called them forth...."

"In this respect he had few if any rivals, and while there was much about this habit both to amuse and instruct, I have preferred to keep fresh in my remembrance his high qualities of statesmanship...."

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Historically Speaking

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Early Terre Haute lawyer supporter of Know Nothings

Valley T s NOV 8 1981

Thompson, Richard Wigginton

By DOROTHY CLARK
Tribune-Star Writer

Talk already of the 1984 presidential election brings to mind a little known fact of local politics — the Know Nothing party and its staunch supporter, Richard W. Thompson.

In the states west of Pennsylvania, this anti-Catholic, anti-foreign party was considered a haven for conservative Union loving Whigs who wished to avoid Republican radicalism on the slavery question but who could not bear to join forces with lifelong enemies, the pro-slavery Democratic party after 1854.

Earlier historians believed the voter appeal of the Know Nothing party was slight and they pictured it as a movement which really had little hatred toward the few Catholics and foreign born persons in the area.

Know Nothings, some historians note, perhaps had more impact than this, however.

One recent student pictures the Know Nothings as sincere zealots responding directly to sensational issues involving immigration and the Catholic Church. Most important was the influx of Catholic immigrants from famine stricken Ireland and from Germany in the late 1840s.

When their five-year naturalization periods expired and the Maine law agitation made them fear they would lose their beer, these immigrants came to the polls in droves, voting — as tradition has dictated — for the Democratic party. Know Nothingism in the Eastern states was a direct response to this new presence.

Any number of incidents fanned the anti-Catholic sentiments. The campaign in New York in 1852 to end reading of the Protestant version of the Bible in the public schools and to split the public school funds for parochial schools was ill-timed and fed the fires of hatred and fear. A depression along the Ohio River in 1854 brought working class hostility to foreign laborers

who lowered wages or threatened scarce jobs.

Many native Protestants sensed a crisis, but the established political parties, Whig and Democrat, did not. Impatient reformers created the Know Nothing party, in fact they helped destroy the Whig party.

Know Nothing lodges began to spring up in Indiana in February, 1854, and very early fused with other anti-Democrat groups and often dictated nominations to the state ticket in secret session the night before the open Fusion or People's party convention met.

In 1854 three-fourths of the Fusion state ticket were Know Nothings, and they swept the state on a prohibition and anti-Nebraska platform.

By 1855, the two groups reached a compromise, the one reducing from 21 to five the years required for naturalization and the other proposing a change in the Indiana constitution to prevent alien voting.

The Know Nothing party reached its peak in Indiana in 1854, but what killed it was the Kansas issue in 1856.

The American of Know Nothing party hardly existed north of the National Road. Its major speaker, Richard W. Thompson, stressed a pro-southern stand so strong many thought him secretly with the Democrats.

The People's party took the name "Republican" in 1858 and refused further concessions to nativists.

The Know Nothing party disappeared by 1859, but some remnants went into the Constitution Union party in 1860.

Thompson was one of the most important leaders of Indiana's Know Nothing party.

Thompson was a Terre Haute lawyer and long-term politician and orator.

Thompson was born in Virginia in 1809 but moved to Indiana in 1831.

A follower of Henry Clay and an advocate of the protective tariff, internal improvements and the sanctity of the Union, he carried these principles with him into the

state legislature in the 1830s and into the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1840s.

He joined the Know Nothings in 1850 and was active until he was lured to the Republicans when they nominated a "conservative" for president in 1860.

He stressed efforts to restore the Union, recruited Indiana soldiers and combatted Copperheadism as a provost marshal and protested the Emancipation Proclamation.

Perhaps, some historians note, Thompson's Know Nothing party affiliation was reluctant — whether he joined despite its anti-Catholic and anti-foreign platform. Most of the Catholics in Vigo County lived in Terre Haute. The first Catholic church was founded here as early as 1838. In 1853 the church added 52 pews and founded a Catholic school, but there was no great Catholic "threat" here.

Thompson's later career hinted that he feared and genuinely disliked the activities of the Catholic church and immigration in the United States. Anti-Catholicism may also have played a larger role in

Rutherford B. Hayes' selection for Thompson for secretary of the navy.

President Ulysses S. Grant in a speech in 1875 predicted the national dividing line would not be the Mason and Dixon line, but between patriotism and intelligence on the one side and superstition, ambition and ignorance on the other.

He advocated not one dollar for free school support to be appropriated for sectarian schools. The issue was anti-Catholic and explosive.

At that time the King James version of the Bible was used exclusively instead of the Douay Bible. In fact, the public schools were Protestant, not religiously neutral.

Readers interested in political matters should learn of Thompson's book "The Papacy and the Civil Power," his speeches, his actions as secretary of the navy recruiting fewer foreign sailors and furnishing Protestant Bibles to sailors.

By 1898, Thompson, practically 90 years old, produced yet another manuscript for an anti-Catholic book "Christianity and Imperialism."

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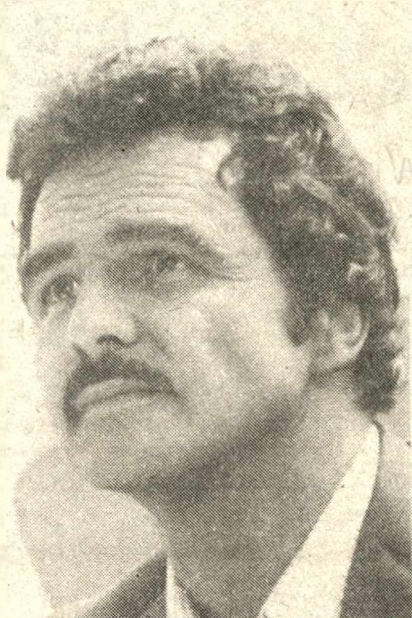
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BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie



Q. In the upcoming "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" film, are there going to be love scenes between Dolly Parton and Burt Reynolds? F. Stringer, San Antonio, Tex.

A. Indeed there will be. In fact, that's a major change from the stage adaptation. In the play, Dolly's character, Miss Mona, and Burt's, the sheriff, are just good buddies, with no messing around. But in the movie, as Dolly explains it, there could be no other way. "If you think I'm going to be in a movie with Burt Reynolds and not get some hugging and kissing, then you're plumb crazy," she says. And she must be right.



Q. Are they really going to rerelease the Beatles' first film, "A Hard Day's Night," this year? J. Halloran, Decatur, Ala.

A. The film's producer Walter Shenson has plans to do just that. To add a little current flavor, though, he's reportedly adding a prologue of the late John Lennon singing the Beatles hit "I'll Cry Instead." Whether that really adds up to new life at the box office remains to be seen, but at least one spectator is livid about the whole thing. Director Richard Lester, who had his own success this year with "Superman II" wants his name taken off the new release. "At best, it's greed," he says, "at worst, it's sick."

Q. Whatever happened to Mark Lester, the cute guy who played Oliver in the movie of the same name? H. Rainey, Silver Spring, Md.

A. A British writer named Robin McGibbon would like to know the very same thing. It seems that Lester, who's spent the last few post-"Oliver" years in supporting roles in British films, decided recently that he wanted a biography of himself written, although he's a mere 23 with hardly a career as yet worthy of memoirs. So he commissioned McGibbon and wrote him a \$7,000 check. The check bounced and Lester disappeared.

Q. Does a person's personal life change after they win an Oscar? I'm thinking of Mary Steenburgen in particular. She won an Oscar this year but I haven't seen her in anything since. Kenny R., Citrus Heights, Calif.

A. There's an old Hollywood superstition that once you win an Oscar, your life goes down the tubes, but it hasn't been borne out too noticeably in recent years. Regarding Steenburgen, you'll see her in two big films during the next few months: "Ragtime" and the new Woody Allen film, "Summer Nights." But she still doesn't feel well-known. "I still," she says matter-of-factly, "have to show my check-cashing card at the neighborhood market."

Q. I read somewhere that USC was bad-mouthing George Lucas, one of its graduates. How come? John S., Pittsburgh, Pa.

A. The school is by no means bad-mouthing Lucas, its most financially successful film school graduate, especially since Lucas has turned some of his intergalactic profits back to his alma mater. What the film school is doing, however, is showing prints of his first student film — a rough version of his later, sci-fi adventure, "THX — 1138" — to its eager undergrads. The film looks so rotten, says a representative of the department, that it inspires students by giving them hope.



Q. Is Bette Midler as pushy as her stage character suggests? Charlotte G., Tacoma, Wash.

A. She can be rather persistent. Reports from the set of her new film, "Jinxed," have her causing considerable mayhem, indeed. It's mostly prima donna stuff: not liking a take, arguing about a line, etc. All of this was not unanticipated, however. The film's producer budgeted extra money for time he thought might be lost due to the Divine's star trip tantrums.



Q. Please tell me whether Jim Stafford once was married to Bobbie Gentry. I say yes, my daughter says no. E. Moore, Nashville, Tenn.

A. You win this one. Stafford and Gentry were married in Las Vegas a few years back, had a baby, bought a mansion in Nashville, and a few months later, the marriage broke up. Perhaps it was because she wouldn't tell him what Billie Joe and his girlfriend threw off the Tallahatchee Bridge.

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: "Between the Lines," Terre Haute Tribune-Star, 721 Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, Ind., 47808. We regret we cannot answer any letters individually.



Historically speaking

Clark, Dorothy

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T: MAR 20 1983

Col. Thompson shared memories

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

On the 84th birthday of Col. Richard W. Thompson, one of Terre Haute's most important citizens, he told a Gazette reporter: "When I first came to Terre Haute in the fall of 1843, this town had perhaps 1,500 or 2,000 inhabitants. The whole town was centered about the courthouse square. In the center of the square was the old brick two-story courthouse which later became unsafe and had to be torn down. The north side of the public square was the principal business section of the city.

"The west side was also a good business side. The south side was taken up by the old State Bank (now Memorial Hall). On the east side there was nothing special that I can remember now. The Town Hall was later on the west side about where the old county treasurer's office was located and many a time I have played ball up against it on a summer evening. Third Street or Market Street, as it was then known, was the next important street.

"When I came here in 1843, I lived in a house that stood at the corner of Fourth and Ohio where the drug store is now (1893). It was a two-story frame. The Chadwick house was then standing just west of where I lived then and from the Chadwick house, which was then occupied by Charles Groverman, Mrs. Blake's brother, to the corner down on Third there was no house till the Johnson place at the southeast corner of Third and Ohio. Johnson was Riley McKeen's father-in-law. My law office then was at the southwest corner of Third and Ohio streets in what is known now as the Sparks building.

Among the prominent attorneys in Terre Haute at the time he came here were Kinney, Wright & Gookins, the leading firm; Griswold & Usher; Judge Huntington had gone on the bench and Judge Farrington, father of George, had already retired from practice. Stephen G. Dodge was a New Yorker who came here and practiced law and then there was a young man named Henry.

When asked about who he was associated with, Thompson replied, "Our firm was Barbour & Thompson. Woolsey Barbour was my partner. By the way, there were a good many young lawyers who studied in my office at Third and Ohio. Among them were Harvey D. Scott, Robert N. Hudson, the Trogdons of Paris, Major W. W. Carter, G. F. Cookerly, Thomas B. Long, Col. Crane, who now lives in New York, and Judge Lee, of Albuquerque, N.M. I always had a house full of young lawyers around," added the colonel.

When asked to tell about the building at the southwest corner of Third and Ohio, Col. Thompson said, "W. C. Linton put it up and after he died his widow married Lucius H. Scott. It was sort of double building and while we had an office on the corner in the downstairs room, the Scotts lived in the west part of the building."

He went on to explain, "The White Hall was a hotel kept in those days at the southwest corner of Third and Mulberry streets. It was a two-story building. I boarded there with my family for a while and W. B. Tuell boarded there at the same time. The White Hall was kept by James S. Freeman. The Eagle Hotel was across the street at the northeast corner of Third and Mulberry and was a frame building. It was run by George Boord. D. W. Watson had his plumbing shop across the street."

The subject of travel was brought up and Col. Thompson recalled stage coach days. "It took us sometimes 24 hours to go by stage from here to Indianapolis and many a time have I made the trip in that way. I remember once Tom Dowl- ing, Jesse Conrad, James Farrington and myself started from here to go to Indianapolis to attend a Whig state convention.

"We started in the morning about seven or eight o'clock, traveled all that day and all night and did not get into Indianapolis till the next day. On the way back when we got to Brazil, we stopped off at Mrs. Cunningham's who kept a tavern (I think two of them) there and Farrington and I were so tired and

broken up by the trip that we laid down and went off in a sleep and the stage went off and left us. We started to walk to Terre Haute, but we found a fellow with a horse and wagon on the road and we hired him to bring us in.

"The coaches were three-seated affairs and for nine persons, the front seat having its back to the driver and being rather sloping. This was my favorite seat, and then I could stretch out my legs, and I got so used to it that I could get some sleep while traveling."

Continuing his life story, Col. Thompson recalled, "I lived at Fourth and Ohio a year or such a matter and then I moved up to the southwest corner of Fourth and Main, where Myers Bros. was located in a two-story brick that stood there. Around the yard at the corner was a high fence. That yard I planted in garden while I lived there in 1844 or 1845. From there I moved back to Fourth and Ohio, and it was while living there that I was elected to Congress. I was in Congress but two times, as I declined renomination, having had enough of congressional life.

"The National Road House," continued the colonel, "was another place where I lived, or rather boarded, in those days. It was kept by a man named Munson, and stands out on Main street near Eleventh. It was in the forties, a large and fashionable boarding house, but it was very far out. If I remember correctly, there was no house on the east, between the National Road House and the Gilberts, and there was no house on the west till you came to the Prairie House, now the Terre Haute House.

"The Spinning Wheel corner was where the Opera House now stands, and it was built while I lived in the Warren house across the street. At that time there were only a few one-story wooden buildings between Third and Fourth on the north side and in one of them George W. Langworthy kept a general dry goods store. Bill Tuell came here to clerk in this store.

"While I lived at Fourth and Ohio the Universalist Church was across the street where the Patton meat

store is now. I remember well that Mrs. Lange and Mrs. Madison were both members of it and very regular attendants. The Catholic church stood alone just where it is now on Fifth, between Walnut and Ohio, and was the same brick building it is now. The pastor of the Catholic church was Rev. Simon Lalumier.

"Mr. Jewett was the Congregational minister and Mr. Croes was the Episcopal minister. Mr. Croes taught school at the southwest corner of Third and Ohio streets and all the boys in town went to school to him."

When asked to describe the early courthouse, Col. Thompson obliged. "The building was a two-story brick. The courtroom was on the first floor and would hold probably 500 people. We had many public meetings there. The country offices were on the second floor. The building was in the center of the square, and the square was filled with fine locust trees, but borers got in to them and finally destroyed them. There was a picket fence around the square. The walls of the courthouse began to crack and it was torn down and a new one built."

Col. Thompson told how the arrival of a stagecoach in Terre Haute in the early days created much excitement. If there were more passengers than usual, maybe one or two extra sitting on top, people used to say there was pretty heavy traveling and they wondered what was up.

When asked if there was a bridge over the Wabash here when he came to Terre Haute in 1843, Thompson replied, "Oh, no, the bridge was not put up till later. There was a ferry in operation and James Farrington owned it. The bridge was built at Ohio street by a stock company and James Johnson, W. R. McKeen's father-in-law, was the contractor who built it. It was borne down by some driftwood in after years, and then the Main street bridge was built, which was for a long time a toll bridge."

Next week's column will tell about Col. Thompson's memories of past elections and politics in the Wabash Valley.

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie



Isobel Sanford

BEST LIFE IMITATES ART,...

-so to speak, Story of the Week: Isobel Sanford, a.k.a. "Louise Jefferson" on the series "The Jeffersons" seems to have thoroughly bound up with her character after playing it for 10 seasons on that show and five before that on "All in the Family."

She opened a dry-cleaning shop (the same as her husband on the show) in Englewood, California called "Weezy's Celebrity Cleaners" run by her son Sanford (whose last name is Richmond but who renamed himself Sanford Sanford) and usually answers to "Mrs. Jefferson," "Louise," or "Weezy" more often than to Isobel.

"Even my grandchild calls me Weezy," she said on a phone call the other day. And doesn't she think that's just a bit strange? "Honey, this name is making me money," she said. She does have a point.

Q. Whatever happened to Robin Nedwell who plays Dr. Duncan Waring in the PBS series "Doctor in the House"? Is he married, how old is he and where is he living? Also, what new projects will he be doing? Heather Chakiris and Bucky Lloyd, Jermyn, Pa.

A. After "Doctor in the House" (which was actually filmed in 1969 and 1970), he spent eight years shooting "Doctor" follow-ups: "Doctor at Sea," "Doctor at Large," "Doctor in Charge," "Doctor on the Go" and "Doctor Down Under."

Finally, he moved on to other series: "Shillingbury Tales" and "West End Tales," the latter about a Soho wheeler-dealer who meddles in everyone's business.

His latest series, "The Climber," about a Bristol baker's assistant who misreads his IQ figures and thinks he's a genius, recently aired on the BBC.

More personally, he's 35, just got married in September to a Kenya-born restaurant manager and lives in London.



Ricky Schroder

Q. I'm a fan of Ricky Schroder. How old is he? What movies or TV shows has he been in? Christi Scheirer, Rockledge, Fla.

A. Ricky's almost 13 — born April 13, 1970 — and although tender of years, is a real trouper, having spent virtually all of his life working. He started at four months with a Macy's commercial, racked up 50 others (and 50 voiceovers) before moving on to his first film at the age of 9, "The Champ."

After that, he starred in a film called "The Earthling" and a number of TV movies, notably "Little Lord Fauntleroy" with Alec Guinness. Recently he did "Hansel and Gretel" on cable and is co-starring in NBC's "Silver Spoons." We wondered what such a precocious achiever would be like, so we put in a call to a source close to the "Spoons" set.

His report: "Ricky is a real, unspoiled kid," he said. "He's like any normal, fun-loving kid. When he's not taping, he plays practical jokes on the set. He shoots his BB gun and throws spitballs at us."

More constructive perhaps, is Ricky's baseball fixation: He plays shortstop in Little League and wants to be a pro player, not necessarily an actor, when he grows up.

Q. I would like to know if Neil Diamond is going to be on tour again soon in the Connecticut area. Also, if he plans to make any more movies. M. Byrnes, Waterbury, Conn.

A. He should be going on the road sometime this month, but probably not in the Connecticut area. His agent's guess (nothing is set as of this writing) is that he'll be in the Rocky Mountain-Pacific Northwest region.

"He hasn't been there in a while and he does tend to spread out his tours. Plus, he doesn't tour that extensively — maybe two weeks at a time every couple of months."

What you can look forward to is a new album which he just finished recording. It's due out in early summer. As for movies, his first "The Jazz Singer," did get a thrashing from most critics, but Neil is unfazed.

"He's very interested in doing another movie," according to the agent. "He reads every script that's sent to him, but nothing excites him. Every so often he toys with the idea of writing his own script, but he'd rather someone else come up with it. So all he can do is keep looking."



Neil Diamond

Anything you'd like to know about prominent personalities? Write: Josie, SUNDAY WOMAN magazine, 235 E. 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Sorry, we can't answer any letters individually.



Clark, Dorothy J.
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Historically speaking

Remembering presidents and politics

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Last week's column began the recollections of Col. Richard W. Thompson, one of Terre Haute's most famous residents, when he was interviewed on one of his birthdays. A noted orator, he was always ready to talk to anyone about anything and a great favorite of newspaper reporters.

On the subject of politics, he recalled, "Our big political meetings, barbecues and picnics were held at Farrington's Grove down on Third street . . . The country being sparsely settled, a meeting of 500 people was considered a large meeting. The two parties then were Whig and Democrat. I shall never forget the race for Congress I had with Joe Wright. We campaigned together, holding joint debates, and we ate and frequently slept together."

The reporter asked about the campaign with Gov. Wright for Congress and whether or not he was elected. "Yes," said the Colonel, and with a glow of evident pride in his eyes he added, "I was never defeated for office when a candidate."

"I cannot conceive of a more natural or a happier society than that which existed in Terre Haute at that time. People were on terms of more perfect equality and intimacy."

According to another political writer, J. H. Beadle, "The veteran of the city is Dick Thompson, as we affectionately call him, who was a

great man at three widely separated epochs. After being a very noted Whig congressman in the days of Jackson, Van Buren and Tyler, he was in retirement for years, reappeared suddenly as a power during the (Civil) War, and again went into retirement only to emerge for the third and last time as President Hayes' secretary of the navy — facetiously called the 'Ancient Mariner of the Wabash.'

"One of the most pleasant memories of my boyhood is that of seeing his refined and scholarly face in the courtroom and at the political meetings and at the last state convention I attended that face showed as attractively as ever.

"I first heard of him as one of our great men (if child memory is not at fault) when the Whigs were singing: 'Get our of the way you Polk root pizen,

'You can't hurt Clay nor Frelinhuysen.'

"Which was thought to be a wonderful achievement in rhyme — as rhyme went in those days. And the last time he did active work in our country his canvass progressed to the strains of:

'Rally round the flag, boys, rally once again,

'Shouting the battle cry of Freedom.'"

According to Beadle, "In the year 1844 Col. Thompson and his opponent canvassed our county (Parke). The campaign began early in April. The air was red hot by June 1, and never since — no, not even in the

darkest days of the Civil War — have the fury and bitterness been excelled. Though not quite five years old at the time, it seems to me that I remember it well."

"As election day drew nigh business was practically suspended. During two or three months the party papers were venomous to a degree that would not now be tolerated, and their columns were spattered all over with such phrases as 'the God defying scoundrel who edits the Sentinel,' 'the infidel blasphemer who attacks Methodist preachers,' etc., and the Whig papers had no other title for Hon. Joseph A. Wright, afterward governor and U.S. minister to Prussia, than 'Wily Joe.'"

"One Democratic paper had an ornamental border representing dead coons (Whigs) hanging in festoons by the tails, and the common phrase of that side for Col. Thompson was 'Oily Tongued Dick.' What a set of scamps our fathers must have been if their papers tell the truths."

According to his memoirs, Col. Thompson saw all the presidents of the United States except two. He saw Jefferson in 1825 when he was an old man, also Madison and Monroe who lived nearby. John Q. Adams was one of his favorites. He saw Jackson first in 1827 at a celebration at Nashville, then later his father took him to the White House to see President Jackson.

"Van Buren wouldn't stand still," recalled Thompson. "He was always

like a horse that would slip the bridle. He was simply a politician and his administration was tumultuous. Then came Harrison, but he did not live long enough to show what was in him. Then came Tyler. He blasted the prospects of our party, but he was a pretty good man. He didn't always keep his promises. I know that because he broke some with me. He was a roistering man and could out-swear any man you ever met. He was the first vice president made president."

"Polk was a hard-working man who killed himself from overwork. Taylor was not a great man at all; in fact, he had less caliber than any other president, but he was honest and as simple as a child. Fillmore was an ordinary debater but he was a sensible man. Pierce was the most courteous gentleman I ever knew, but he possessed no great ability. I predicted his election several years before his nomination and after his election he asked about it and said: 'What in the name of God did you see in me, that induced you to predict that?'

"For clear reasoning, Buchanan had few superiors, but he was not a man of decision or courage and he was bulldozed. I could talk about Lincoln all day and then not exhaust the subject. We agreed on almost everything and were often together. He was a curious fellow and one of the most awkward men I ever knew. The others — Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland and Harrison are too modern to talk about."

Vigo County Public Library

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie

Q. I would like to know more about Jan-Michael Vincent — how old he is, if he's married, what movies he's been in. Karen LaPrade, Waterbury, Ct.

A. He's 37, divorced, with a daughter, Amber, 9 (she lives with her mother Bonnie). His movies include: Disney's "The World's Greatest Athlete," "The Mechanic," "White Line Fever," "Bite the Bullet," "Buster and Billie," "Baby Blue Marine," "Hard Country," "Hooper," and "Going Home," in which he played Robert Mitchum's son, a role he recently repeated, as the entire country must know, in ABC's "The Winds of War."



Jan-Michael Vincent

He really wanted that part in "Winds": "He read the book when he was in Mexico surfing," according to a close associate. "So when he came back and found that they were working on a movie of it, he went after it, he even screen-tested for it, which is something he doesn't do for anyone any more."

"And even though they had to age the character of Byron for him, he really had no doubt that the role would finally be his. Jan has very definite ideas of what is good for him and what isn't."

Now, he has a deal with Paramount to develop properties for him. So what does he want? "Some grown up roles," says his agent. "He really is getting tired of playing 22-year-old kids. He thinks it's time he played an adult."

SORRY KEVIN, MAYBE IF YOU'D COME BY LAST WEEK...

Kevin Kline, the co-star of "Sophie's Choice," and a real hot ticket in the New York theater the last few years, obviously had minimal impact on one New Yorker recently.

It seems that Kevin and two female companions strolled up to an East Side movie theater, intent on seeing the movie that had just started showing there, "The Year of Living Dangerously."

Kevin gave the cashier a \$100 bill and she turned the three away. "If President Reagan had come in with a \$100 bill, I wouldn't have accepted it," said the leery cashier.

Still, she should have recognized Kevin — "Sophie's Choice" had just finished its engagement at the theater. Some people, we guess, just aren't impressed...



Eddie Fisher

Q. I just finished reading Eddie Fisher's book. Where is he making appearances now? Does he have any plans for Las Vegas? M. Parkam, Las Vegas, Nev.

A. We gave him a call while he was in New York and found his focus to be on the East Coast and the South, at least for the moment, having just finished engagements in Atlantic City, Manhattan, the Catskills, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Las Vegas is a definite possibility,

but nothing, according to his agents, has been set as yet.

Otherwise, we found Eddie in a pretty contemplative, but exuberant, mood. First, he sang. "I'm not supposed to be talking," he whispered. "My doctor told me I have to save my voice. Even singing is easier on me than talking."

After singing a few answers, he decided to risk it — but he is listening seriously to his doctor, make no mistake about it, and studying singing for the first time in his career.

"I used to just do it," he said. "Au naturel. I didn't concentrate on it or protect it. Or really do it right. And I certainly had other interests which took me away from it. 'I discovered there was a wonderful thing called Woman — much more fascinating than singing.'"

Now, after kicking his various habits, including Elizabeth Taylor, he says he feels lucky. "I've been given another chance — a better chance. You don't often get a second chance after you hit bottom like I did." Fisher was addicted to drugs and he was also a compulsive gambler.

But still, some temptations never go away. "I need to be in love," he said. "I really need to have a woman to be obsessive about. I'm still so old-fashionedly romantic."

Fisher is on the comeback trail now — drug-free and singing again.

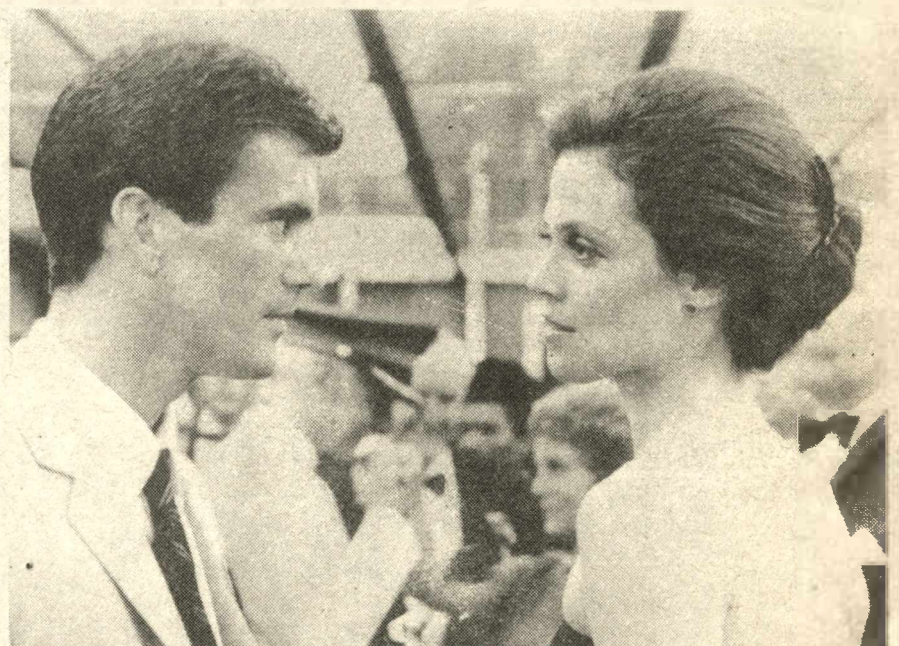
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SPEAKING OF LIVING

DANGEROUSLY: Star Mel Gibson has his own theory about the reason he and Sigourney Weaver could pull off such steamy love scenes in "The Year of Living Dangerously."

"It was animal stuff," says Mel. "Man. Woman. I knew we could get some kind of spark going." But, now to Sigourney's side, where we learn just how tough getting in the right mood must have been.

"Mel was always playing practical jokes," she says. "Not putting frogs down my back or that sort of thing, but he was always cracking these awful, offensive, foul jokes. Even if it was very late at night and we were tired, and we were working on a particularly heavy scene, he told those jokes. He didn't seem to notice that everyone was embarrassed."



Mel Gibson, Sigourney Weaver

Thompson left rich legacy

FEB 19 1984

Community Affairs File

Colonel Richard Wiggington Thompson is claimed by Terre Haute and Vigo County as one of the most famous native sons, but Lawrence County, Ind., has a prior claim. Born in Virginia in 1809, he moved to Indiana as a young man and became one of Bedford's first school teachers.

Lawrence County's first newspaper was founded in 1831 when "educated" Thompson issued his Whig "Western Spy." This was a rather dubious newspaper venture, but it did operate for a short time, and a copy can be found in the Lawrence County Museum.

Thompson turned his efforts to the practice of law and then into politics where he gained national fame. He married in 1836 and built a home for his bride on the site of the more recent Methodist Church. Thompson's first children were born in Bedford.

Both Thompson's grandfathers back in Culpeper County, Va., fought in the Revolutionary War. He had seen Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Lafayette. As an orator he had spoken for Clay, and Harrison during the Whig campaign of 1840. In Congress he had served two terms as representative beginning in 1834, and later in the Senate served as president pro tem. He knew and talked with Webster, Clay, John Quincy Adams, and had heard Lincoln deliver his speech on the Mexican War.

Thompson was a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln and could have had a cabinet position under him. As Secretary of the Navy during President Hayes' administration, Thompson was the first to send American warships to Korea and to open trade with that country.

Thompson also made it possible for men to enlist in the American Navy from recruiting offices which he had set up throughout the country, instead of having but one recruiting office in New York City as had been the practice. Prior to Thompson's time most enlisted men in the United States Navy could not speak English

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

as they were largely young immigrants out of New York City.

Thompson played a small role in the development of the telegraph. It was he who befriended Samuel F. B. Morse when the inventor appealed to Congress for help in constructing a line between Washington and Baltimore. Congressmen had taken little interest in Morse and his invention, and one legislator told the House that if money could be appropriated for such a device they should also spend some for the furtherance of mesmerism.

Congressman Thompson was interested enough in Morse that he journeyed to New York City and saw the instrument in use in Morse's home, used it and became a firm believer in its value to the nation and the world. Strong in his own belief, he helped sell Congress on backing the idea, a job Morse and his friends had been unable to accomplish. A line was built between Washington and Baltimore, and the message "What hath God wrought" was sent and went down in history. Lawrence County had contributed her small part in an invention for the betterment of mankind through its Congressman.

Alex Dunihue of Bedford had befriended Thompson while on a trip to Louisville and brought him to his home town and got him a job, starting Thompson on a career that eventually led to Thompson's becoming one of the nation's top politicians.

Col. R. W. Thompson came to Terre Haute in 1842 and called this city home for almost 60 years. He died at the age of 91 in 1900 and was buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he became commandant of Camp Dick Thompson east of Terre Haute on the old Bloomington Road, now East Poplar Street. Later he was transferred to the office of the Provost Marshal of this district. His home at 1200 South Sixth Street and his country home at Springhill were landmarks of the city. The town residence was cut in two and both halves were removed to other locations in the southend. The country home was destroyed by fire during bootlegging days in the county.

In 1880 Thompson had been a high official in the Panama Canal Company during the French control of that enterprise. Sometimes called the American Father of the Panama Canal, he was hired by Ferdinand DeLesseps away from his job as Secretary of the Navy to promote American aid to the project.

In 1892 Col. Thompson, called Uncle Dick by his hometown of Bedford, came to make a political speech as the grand old man of the Republican party. He often made trips to Bedford to talk with old friends, and every political campaign would find him there.

At his death in 1900 he was the oldest American active in politics, had written more national and state platforms than any other man in the nation's history, had actively participated in 15 national political campaigns and knew most of the nation's great during the latter half of the 19th century.

Thompson wrote several books including "Recollections of Sixteen Presidents" and another on his views against Catholicism. Best known for his oratory, it was said that there could not be an important event of any kind without Col. Richard W. Thompson on the platform to deliver one of the speeches in favor of the occasion, whatever it might have been.

FEB 19 1984

Clothing didn't figure into Lincoln's success

Ts FEB 10 1985

One of Terre Haute's leading citizens, former United States Congressman and Secretary of the Navy Richard W. Thompson, enjoyed reminiscing about his days of glory in the Capitol City. One story he delighted to tell concerned Abraham Lincoln and his introduction to Washington high society.

Thompson had been in Congress for three or four years before Lincoln arrived, but he had known him previously when their paths would cross as they practiced law in Indiana and Illinois. Six weeks after the Lincoln family arrived at the Capitol, his wife and boys went to Louisville for a visit, so Thompson invited Lincoln to share quarters with him and another Congressman.

About the time Lincoln came to room with them, Madam Carpenter, recognized leader of Washington's correct social circles, issued invitations to one of her famous receptions. All three young men were pleased to be included, because Madam Carpenter entertained only the select social set of Washington, D.C.

But Lincoln's face showed consternation when he read the invitation more carefully and realized that formal attire would be required. He did not have a dress suit. Thompson recalled that Lincoln stood up, stretched himself to his more than 6 feet, drew his pants high about his waist and sighed.

Thompson and his roommate appraised Lincoln's appearance. The hems of his pantlegs hung well above the tops of his enormous

Historically speaking



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shoes. His long arms hung limply at his sides, his shoulders slumped, and his head, with its shock of uncombed hair, hung forward. They sighed, too.

Time did not permit a tailor-made suit, so it became necessary to shop for a ready-made suit to fit him. The three set out to find formal attire and after being turned away from several stores, finally they were successful. The salesman sighed often as he measured Lincoln and promised to do his best. The suit would be delivered after necessary alterations were made.

The following afternoon was spent in coaching Lincoln in the manners of polite society. By evening they had managed to get him into the ill-fitting suit. Lincoln, by this time, had lost interest in attending the reception.

Madam Carpenter received the three young congressmen graciously, but Lincoln went through the formal introduction with his usual

awkwardness. His two friends slipped away in embarrassment, but Madam Carpenter held on to Lincoln's hand and seemed interested in their conversation.

At the end of a rather late dance, Lincoln was discovered in the library, again in the company of Madam Carpenter. The beautiful, intellectual woman, expensively gowned and bejeweled in the latest fashion, was seated in an armchair. Doubled up like a partially opened jack-knife, Lincoln was hunched down on a footstool at her feet. They were deep in serious conversation.

The next evening Thompson and his friend decided to call on Madam Carpenter and apologize for the crude behavior of their roommate. Sensing their intent, she looked straight into their embarrassed faces and told them firmly, "Gentlemen, you are bright and able young congressmen. You are ambitious to get on in the world, to climb, and I have every reason for believing that you will do that.

"But let me tell you something," she went on. "Congressman Lincoln will become president before either of you reach that goal, mark my words."

Those prophetic words of Madam Carpenter in the late 1840s were to come true. Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860, becoming the 16th President of the United States.

Thompson always saw this happening as a direct contradiction of the old saying, "Clothes make the man." In Lincoln's case, they didn't.

Community Affairs File

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Zachary Taylor's TH connection

174 years ago he commanded Fort Harrison

Zachary Taylor, the hero of Fort Harrison, was the 12th President of the United States. According to a biographical sketch of his life, written 75 years ago by local educator Herbert Briggs, Zachary was "baptized into the world of fame within the shadow of Terre Haute."

Zachary was born in Orange County, Va., on Sept. 24, 1784, soon after the Treaty of Paris closed the Revolutionary War. His parents were Col. Richard Taylor, who had taken part in the war and was on intimate terms with Gen. George Washington, and Mary Strother, said to have been a real beauty.

Zachary was the third son of four sons and three daughters in Col. Taylor's family. The family moved to a large tract of land near the present city of Louisville when Zachary was a year old. The Kentucky land grant was given to Col. Taylor by Virginia for his service in the Revolutionary War.

His father wanted Zachary to be a farmer, but destiny changed his plans. His education was begun by a New England teacher, but was interrupted by the Aaron Burr episode in American history. Young Zachary joined a volunteer company and received his first military training. His ambition was to follow an army career.

In the early days of Kentucky and Indiana, pioneers left their Kentucky homes to farm the fertile soil of the Wabash Valley. The two states had a common enemy, the

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Indians.

When William Strother Taylor, older brother of Zachary and second lieutenant of artillery, died, President Jefferson appointed Zachary as first lieutenant in the Seventh Regiment of Infantry on May 3, 1808. His first assignment took him to New Orleans, but the climate and fevers soon sent him home to recuperate. Remaining on furlough about two years before regaining his health, he married Margaret Smith of Calvert Co., Md.

On Nov. 30, 1810, Taylor was promoted to the rank of captain by President James Madison. About one half of the Seventh Regiment to which he had been assigned, was sent north to Vincennes to join Gen. William Henry Harrison, governor of the Northwest Territory. This was a favorable time for a young man with Capt. Taylor's ambition.

Indians under the leadership of

the Prophet had assembled near the present site of Lafayette, Ind., at Prophet's Town. It was against this formidable foe that Gen. Harrison marched from Vincennes on Sept. 26, 1811. At a point about three miles due north of the present Vigo County Courthouse, he built Fort William Henry Harrison, named in his honor.

About a year later, on Sept. 4, 1812, Taylor commanded Fort Harrison. He had about 50 men under his command, less than 20 of whom were fit for duty, the others incapacitated by sickness, ague and fever. Nearby settlers and their families who had sought refuge in the fort also aided in its defense.

All facts show the attacking Indians were part of the plan of Britain to exterminate Fort Harrison. Taylor's conduct on that trying night was characteristic of his entire life. His heroism won for him the rank and title of major by brevet, an unusual thing in Indian warfare. Peaceable settlement could now go forward.

At the end of the War of 1812, Congress ordered the federal standing army reduced to 10,000 men. As a consequence, Taylor was reduced in rank, but rather than be humiliated in the face of the service he had rendered, he resigned without comment or complaint, and returned to his Kentucky farm.

Without any effort on his part he

was soon restored to the army with the rank of lieutenant colonel of the First Regiment of Infantry. During the next 24 years Taylor was engaged in defending frontier settlements against the Indians. His chief adversary was Black Hawk, Chief of the Sacs and Foxes.

It was during the northwestern campaign that his oldest daughter, Sarah, became the wife of Jefferson Davis, then a young officer serving in her father's regiment and later to become President of the Southern Confederacy.

Taylor continued in the northwest until 1836 when Indian attacks in Florida and on the Gulf Coast required a man of his experience to restore order and safety to the settlers from the ferocious Seminoles. He was now 52 years old and had a quarter of a century of success with Indian uprisings. In a decisive battle at Okechobee, he won the title of brigadier general by brevet, and was appointed to the chief command of Florida.

His successful career continued during the Mexican War and he became a popular idol after his hero's part in the foreign war that added an empire to the United States. Taylor had been respected, honored and trusted by every president, beginning with Jefferson and ending with Polk, a period of nearly 40 years.

Elected to the presidency of the U.S. by the Whigs in 1848, he served as president for only 16

months. His death was attributed to the excessive heat while attending the ceremony for the cornerstone laying of the Washington monument. He died July 9, 1850 and is buried on the old Taylor farm, now within Louisville.

When Taylor became president his wife declined the honors and duties of the first lady of the land and surrendered them to her daughter, Miss Betty, or Mrs. Bliss. She pronounced her husband's elevation to the presidency as part of a plan to deprive her of his society and to shorten his life by unnecessary care. In this she was correct.

His careless habits of dress, his unaffected simplicity, had secured for Taylor among his troops, the nickname of "Old Rough and Ready." When the Whigs decided to take advantage of his national popularity after the Mexican War victory and run him for president, Taylor was astonished.

Declaring that he was not at all qualified for the office and that he was so little interested in politics he had not cast a vote for 40 years, Daniel Webster was quoted as saying, "It is a nomination not fit to be made."

Taylor was neither an eloquent speaker nor a fine writer, but his popularity as a candidate swept the land. He was triumphantly elected over two opposing candidates, Gen. Cass and former President Martin VanBuren.

The Lincolns at Christmas 1863

Holiday dinner was memory of reunions past

One of the happiest days Abraham Lincoln spent in the White House was Christmas Day 1863. The family enjoyed a dinner much like the one his sister Sarah served on the occasion of the last Lincoln family reunion in November 1826 in their Indiana home.

On that day, 37 years previously, Lincoln had sat at the table in their humble home laughing and joking with his loved ones. The menu, as near as he could remember it, was the same as the one served in the White House.

The hearty meal of stuffed roast turkey, hot biscuits, soft corn bread, sweet potato pie and all those delicacies known to Hoosiers actually inspired the first annual Thanksgiving Day proclamation which he issued Oct. 20, 1864.

Lincoln's only sister, Sarah Lincoln, had married Aaron Grigsby

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on Aug. 2, 1824, and had gone to housekeeping about five miles south of the Lincoln home.

There was another wedding when Matilda Johnson, Abraham's foster sister, married Squire Hall on Sept. 14, 1826. Hall was a relative of Lincoln's mother, a son

of Levi and Nancy Hanks Hall, and a half-brother of Dennis Hanks.

At that time, Thomas Lincoln was 50 years old. His second wife, the Widow Johnson, was 38. Abraham's sister Sarah had mothered him after their own mother's death, and when she left home to marry, he left home to work several months as ferry man on Anderson's Creek.

This left the family circle broken, and when the corn was gathered that fall, Thomas Lincoln found his fireside emptier. Only John, Mrs. Lincoln's son, remained at home. The long winter ahead looked lonely, so plans were made for a family reunion.

Abraham came home from Anderson Creek and found Sarah and Matilda and the two new brothers-in-law, Elizabeth Johnson Hanks, sister of Matilda and John, and her husband, Dennis Hanks.

brought their two children who livened up the reunion.

One of those children said years later of her grandfather, Thomas Lincoln, "He made a good living, and I reckon he would have got something ahead if he had not been so generous. He had the old Virginia notion of hospitality ... liked to see people sit up to the table and eat heartily."

As Sarah and her stepmother hurried about preparing the feast, the stuffed turkey was browning in the oven. The sweet potato pies were cooling on the window sill.

All this Lincoln remembered on Christmas Day 37 years later with his wife, his 10-year-old son Tad and the elder son Robert, who was home for the holidays from Harvard.

When Sarah died little more than a year after the family reunion, the Lincoln family circle

was broken forever. It was a bittersweet memory he recalled of that former happy time.

Preparations went forward for the special Christmas dinner in 1864. Six weeks prior, a turkey had been sent to the White House for the holiday dinner. Young Tad had adopted the turkey, fed and petted it, and named it "Jack." The huge bird followed him everywhere around the White House grounds.

On Christmas Eve, while the President was engaged in an important conference with one of his cabinet members, Tad burst into the room like a bombshell. History records that he was sobbing and crying with rage and indignation.

It seems the turkey was about to be killed. Tad had arranged a stay of execution while he hurried to lay

the case before the president.

"Jack must not be killed," he cried. "It's wicked."

"But," remonstrated his father, "Jack was sent here to be killed and eaten for Christmas dinner."

"I can't help it," roared Tad, between sobs. "He's a good turkey, and I don't want him killed."

The president of the United States, pausing in the midst of important war decisions and business matters concerning the country, took a card and wrote on it an order of reprieve. The turkey's life was spared. Tad seized the precious bit of paper and fled to set Jack at liberty, free of the execution block.

The roast turkey the Lincoln family enjoyed that Christmas Day in 1864 was not Jack, his little son's lucky friend.

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Community Affairs File

Notes from each of Lincoln's 56

Ts FEB 08 1987

A yearly calendar of important events in the life of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) is as good a way as any to review United States history and show how one man's life span of only 56 years destined him to play a major role as America's 16th president.

1809 — Abraham Lincoln was born Feb. 12. James Madison was inaugurated March 4. May 1 marked the organization of the Illinois Territory.

1810 — On his first birthday, Lincoln still lived in his log cabin birthplace. The population of the U.S. was 7,239,822 on June 1; of that number, 1,191,363 were slaves.

1811 — Abraham celebrated his second birthday in the same log cabin.

1812 — Following his third birthday, Congress declared war against the English on June 18.

1813 — Lincoln moved to Knob Creek, 15 miles away, where he saw his first soldier, of the War of 1812. On April 23 Stephen A. Douglas was born in Brendon, Vt.

1814 — Lincoln began attending school. On Dec. 9 Stanton, Lincoln's great Secretary of War, was born.

1815 — Lincoln almost drowned in Knob Creek at age 6. On Jan. 8 Jackson won the Battle of New Orleans.

1816 — When he was 7, Lincoln's family moved to Gentryville, Ind., crossing the Ohio River on a raft.

1817 — At the age of 8, he began using an axe in the forest. On Aug. 2 the first steamboat arrived in St. Louis.

1818 — On his ninth birthday, Lincoln lived in the log cabin in Indiana he helped build. On Oct. 5 his mother died at the age of 35.



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1819 — On his 10th birthday he was living with his father and his sister, Sarah, in the Indiana wilderness. On Dec. 2 his father married Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnson. This was the year the first steamboat crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

1820 — At the age of 11, Lincoln walked four miles daily to attend school.

1821 — His eagerness for learning was encouraged by his stepmother when he was 12 years old.

1822 — At age 13, he worked on the farm, did figuring on a wooden shovel and smooth bark. U.S. Grant was born on April 27.

1823 — When he was 14, Lincoln attended Andrew Crawford's school and wrote his first essay about cruelty to animals. On June 1 the first steam-power printing press was used in New York. On Dec. 2 the Monroe Doctrine was pronounced.

1824 — Lincoln borrowed all available books for miles around when he was 15. On Aug. 10 Robert Owen of Scotland established a community settlement in Indiana.

1825 — When he was 16, Lincoln worked as a wood chopper and earned \$6 a month. On Oct. 26 the Erie Canal was completed.

1826 — At the age of 17, he got his hands on his first law book and helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of American Independence.

1827 — Lincoln was 18 when his sister died in July.

1828 — At the age of 19, he was 6 feet four inches tall and made his first trip down the Mississippi River earning \$8 per month.

1829 — Now 20 years old, Lincoln worked as a wood chopper and won notice as a backwoods orator. Robert E. Lee graduated from West Point.

1830 — When Lincoln was 21, his family prepared to leave Indiana for Illinois.

1831 — He helped build the new house in Illinois when he was 22. He worked on a flatboat and clerked in a store at New Salem.

1832 — He served in the Black Hawk War at the age of 23 and read Blackstone.

1833 — Now 24, burdened with debt, Lincoln learned surveying and was appointed postmaster of New Salem, Ill., on May 7.

1834 — He was elected to the state legislature at the age of 25, where he met Stephen A. Douglas.

1835 — Now 26, Lincoln talked against slavery and favored women's suffrage.

1836 — At the age of 27 he began practicing law in Springfield, Ill., and was re-elected to the legislature in November.

1837 — When he was 28 he retired as postmaster and protested against pro-slavery action of the legislature.

1838 — When he was 29 he formed a law partnership with John T. Stuart at Springfield. In November he was re-elected to the legislature.

1839 — In his 30th year Lincoln argued

against slavery in the legislature. U. S. Grant entered West Point in September.

1840 — At age 31 Lincoln again was re-elected to the legislature.

1841 — At age 32 he became interested in temperance.

1842 — On Feb. 22, now age 33, he favored total abstinence in an address before the Washington Temperance Society at Springfield. On Nov. 4 he married Mary Todd of Lexington, Ky.

1843 — When he was 34 Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, was born on Aug. 1. U. S. Grant graduated from West Point.

1844 — Lincoln celebrated his 35th birthday.

1845 — He was now 36.

1846 — When he was 37, Lincoln's second son, Edward Baker Lincoln, was born on March 10, but died in infancy. Lincoln was elected to Congress in November.

1847 — When he was 38, Lincoln and Andrew Johnson were both in the House of Representatives in December. Stephen A. Douglas and Jefferson Davis were in the Senate.

1848 — Lincoln was 39. During the year he spoke in Massachusetts against the Free Soil Party. He introduced a bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

1849 — Now he was 40. He studied and mastered Euclid. The President declined to appoint him Commissioner of General Land Office, and he resumed his law practice at Springfield.

1850 — When he was 41 he declined the offer of a partnership in a Chicago law firm. His third son, William Wallace Lincoln was born on Dec. 21.

1851 — When Lincoln was 42, his father died at the age of 73.

1852 — The year Lincoln was 43, Henry Clay died at the age of 75; Daniel Webster died at the age of 70.

1853 — Lincoln celebrated his 44th birthday. His fourth son, Thomas Lincoln, was born April 4.

1854 — When he was 45, Lincoln challenged Douglas to a joint debate in October.

1855 — Lincoln was 46. This was the year the anti-slavery group became generally known as the Republican Party.

1856 — He celebrated his 47th birthday and on May 29 he delivered the address at the organization of the Republican Party in Bloomington.

1857 — When Lincoln was 48, Buchanan was inaugurated as President of the U.S. on March 4.

1858 — When he was 49, Lincoln made the opening speech on June 16 as In-Douglas debate took place at Ottawa, Ill.; the second, Aug. 27 at Freeport, Ill.; the third, Sept. 15 at Jonesboro, Ill.; the fourth, Sept. 18 at Charleston, Ill.; the fifth, at Galesburg, Ill.,

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on Oct. 7; the sixth, at Quincy, Ill., on Oct. 13; and the seventh, at Alton, Ill., on Oct. 15.

1859 — Lincoln turned 50. John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry took place Oct. 16.

1860 — On Feb. 27, when he was 51, Lincoln delivered his famous Cooper Union speech. On May 18 he was nominated for the presidency. On Dec. 14, the senators and representatives of eight southern states urged constituents to secede from the Union.

1861 — The first shot of the Civil War was fired Jan. 9. The Confederate Congress was organized Feb. 4 and Jefferson Davis became its president on Feb. 8. Lincoln's 52nd birthday was Feb. 12. On March 4 he was inaugurated as President of the U.S. On April 15 he called for 75,000 volunteer soldiers. The Battle of Bull Run occurred July 21 and the next day Congress voted \$500,000,000 to prosecute the war.

1862 — When Lincoln was 53, his son, William Wallace Lincoln, died in the White House on Feb. 20. On July 2, Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers to serve three years. On Aug. 4 he called for 300,000 militia for nine months. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued Sept. 22.

1863 — On Jan. 1 he declared all slaves free. He observed his 54th birthday. He called for 300,000 volunteers Oct. 17 and delivered his famous Gettysburg Address Nov. 19.

1864 — When Lincoln was 55, he appointed Grant as Commander-in-Chief on March 9. He called for 500,000 men on July 18. Lincoln was re-elected Nov. 8. On Dec. 19 he called for 300,000 volunteers.

1865 — The 13th Amendment providing for the prohibition of slavery was adopted by Congress Feb. 1. Lincoln observed his 56th birthday. The fall of Richmond occurred April 3. Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9. Lincoln delivered his last speech from the window of the White House on April 11. On April 14 he was shot by John Wilkes Booth while attending Ford's Theater. He died the next day. The funeral was April 19 and Lincoln was buried in Springfield, Ill., on May 4.

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Abe Lincoln's life added spice

Clark, Dorothy

It has been said by Lincoln scholars that the great puzzle about our Civil War president was that in his younger years he was crude and even rude. It took the struggle and sorrow of his adult life and its tragedies, the war years and his responsibilities to develop the later man.

While sitting for his portrait, Lincoln was observed by the noted artist, A. J. Conant, as being just the opposite of what he had expected.

Instead of being melancholy and serious, he found Lincoln to be bright, animated and genial. To make him forget for a time his absorbing affairs of state, Conant told humorous stories, and Lincoln responded with many stories for which he was famous.

Lincoln told how he got his first taste for law while he was running the grocery store at Salem, near Springfield, Ill. A farmer drove up with a broken down horse and a wagon filled with household "plunder," and asked what he would give "fur the hull load."

Lincoln looked over the collection of old pots, pans, kettles and stuff, and gave him half a dollar. The man went off, and Lincoln stored

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the stuff.

Some weeks after the purchase, Lincoln had occasion to use one of the barrels filled with the "truck" bought in the 50-cent purchase. As he turned out the contents of one of them, under the rusty pans a dilapidated copy of Blackstone's "Commentaries" came to light. Lincoln eyed it curiously and laid it aside.

Later in the afternoon he picked up the book and began to read. He soon became absorbed in it, and from that day on he read all the long leisure hours which fell to the lot of the country grocer. This was

the first inkling he had of any interest in the law, the vocation he was afterward to attain and become successful.

According to Conant, there was nothing which annoyed Lincoln more than being interrupted before getting to the point of a story. One such story stuck in his memory. When he tried to tell the story about the rear of a train, the train pulled out before he got to the point. The second time happened at a gun testing, and the gun was fired just as he reached the punch line.

The story concerned a Missouri man who went to a stable to get a horse to take him to a convention he was attending as a delegate with the hope of nomination.

The stable keeper was of a different political persuasion, and gave him a horse he calculated would break down before he got there. His calculations proved true, and the man lost the nomination.

On his return to the stable the disappointed Missourian asked the stableman if he was training that horse for a hearse. The man replied that he "kinder guessed he wasn't."

"Well," said the man, "if you are, he'll never do it, for he wouldn't get

a corpse to the cemetery in time for the Resurrection."

It was at the famous peace conference in February 1865, between Lincoln and a group of distinguished Confederates, that Mr. Hunter urged Lincoln to make peace recognizing the Confederacy. He cited the case of Charles I of England and his rebellious Parliament as precedent for Lincoln's right to do so.

"On the question of history," Lincoln replied, "I must refer you to Mr. Seward who is posted in such matters. I don't pretend to be, but I have a tolerably distinct recollection, in the case you refer to, that Charles lost his head, and I have no head to spare."

A delegation from New York called upon Lincoln. The members wanted the President to adopt different tactics to conquer the South. They suggested that a force be sent by sea to strike somewhere in South Carolina or Georgia.

Lincoln listened attentively and said, "There was an old crooked hollow log that ran through a fence into a field. A sow and her pigs were in the habit of crawling through the hollow log and having a good time rooting in the field."

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"The son of the farmer who owned the field came along one day and moved the crooked log so the elbow was in the field and both ends out. The sow entered the log as usual, grunting with satisfaction, followed by her pigs. When she came out and found herself on the same side she was nonplussed, and for hours ran through the log expecting to find a way into the field, but always landing on the same side, the outside. Gentlemen."

The delegation, convulsed with laughter, departed.

Another time, a group of men demanded to know why the President did not put down the rebellion at once.

He replied, "A man dreamed one night that he saw a giant walking in the forest, so tall his head reached to the branches of the trees, and his arms stretched far and wide.

"When the giant passed a small man, as unnaturally tiny as the giant was large, he asked in a small, squeaky voice if he had seen the big giant, that he wanted to catch him."

The point was made, and the

small, squeaking men filed out of the room, satisfied with Lincoln's reply.

During a fracas one night in Washington, an officer of the District of Columbia interfered to stop it. He threatened to arrest a bully, and the man struck at him. The officer parried the blow, and then gave the bully such a blow under the chin that it felled him at once. The man was taken away in a supposed dying condition.

Very much troubled by the situation, the officer went to Lincoln for consolation. Lincoln promised to stand by him, but gave him this bit of parting advice: "Hereafter, when you strike a man, don't hit him with your fist. Strike him with a club, or a crowbar, or with something that won't kill."

All American presidents have been human, some more so than others, but Lincoln's reputation as a story teller has topped all of them. In his younger days on the frontier his stories were crude and earthy. As his career advanced, his stories were just as pithy, but not so "locker room." The halo gets tighter and tighter, but can't rule out the truth.

not recognized

Yes, Lincoln slept here — but once

According to history, the first time Abraham Lincoln ever passed through Terre Haute was nearly 150 years ago. A tall, awkward, slouchy-looking youth, he drove a crude wagon into the little town. The wagon was loaded with the usual possessions of a pioneer family — pots and pans, bedcovers, chairs, big kettles, sacks of provisions, and precious seeds for planting.

Lincoln was described as ungainly in his homespun clothes. He stared around with eyes that were earnest, unafraid and eager to learn from every new experience. The little town was new to him, but he drove the wagon to the old wagon yard at Third and Wabash. He slept that night nestled in amongst the plunder in the wagon.

Little is known of what he did that evening, but it was his first time in Terre Haute, and surely he walked around a little, found

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

something to eat, and talked with townspeople and fellow travelers.

Years later he came to Terre Haute again. That was in the 1850s, not too long before he became President of the Union. And this time he came in better circumstances — sprawled on the back seat of a stagecoach.

Since his first stop here, Terre Haute had changed. Main Street was a little hive of activity. New stores had been opened, including the first Root Store, which opened its doors in 1855, just a few years before Lincoln took his oath of office as president.

When the stagecoach stopped in front of one of the town's hotels near the Wabash River and the door was opened for passengers, Lincoln continued to sprawl on the seat. On the long ride from Springfield, Ill., to Indianapolis, the lone occupant had fallen asleep, his head at one end of the seat, his feet at the other.

"Say, have you rented the coach for the day?" asked the nattily dressed Thomas H. Nelson.

"Ah, no indeed," answered Lincoln, "I'm sorry." He sat up and Nelson and Judge Abram Hammond climbed into the vehicle.

"Will you move on another seat, my good man? Judge Hammond would like to have this seat," Nelson said.

Lincoln looked around at the two "dolled-up" men, smiled and doffed his hat before climbing onto the driver's seat. He began talking to the stagecoach driver as they rolled along Main Street, heading east on the National Road.

He continued to ride on top of the coach until the Halfway House was reached. It was raining then, and he jumped down in the muddy roadway, and brought a board and laid it across the muddiest place so that the judge didn't have to step in it. Everyone enjoyed a noon dinner at the stagecoach stop, but at separate tables.

It was not until they reached Indianapolis and registered at a downtown hotel that they realized they had made a faux pas. Judge

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Hammond had gone to his room, but Nelson remained in the lobby and watched prominent men — Judge McLean, Ned Hannegan, Albert S. White, Judge Huntington and Col. Richard W. Thompson — surround the tall, gaunt stranger. He learned he was Congressman Lincoln of Illinois.

Stealing to the room of the judge, Nelson told his story and the two slipped out the back way through an alley to the street. Too chagrined to face the situation, the Terre Haute men never appeared at that particular hotel during their stay in the Capitol.

Later, when Col. Thompson introduced Lincoln to the two men, he made no mention of their former meeting. They realized why he was the man holding first place in the country's attention, the man most likely to be the next president of the United States. Lincoln always

felt strongly that he was one of the people and acted like one of them.

History has not recorded all of Lincoln's visits to Terre Haute or the brief stops he might have made here traveling through the area on his law business. One unusual visit was when he brought his small son here to use Terre Haute's celebrated "madstone."

It was reported that the trip was successful, and the boy recovered from the dog bite. Whether or not the madstone had any powers was never proven.

A few years later Lincoln passed again, not through Terre Haute, but close to the city. Mourning draped every building along the way, for his remains were being taken back to Springfield for burial. Public buildings, stores and residences were draped in black on that sad occasion.

Starting small

Honest Abe talked up ideas to locals

Clark, Dorothy
T s OCT 23 1988

The young man known as "Honest Abe" began his public speaking career at village meetings and the local literary and debating societies. His favorite topic was about the river, and how its flow must be brought under control at the mill dam, a subject on which he had expert knowledge.

Lincoln spoke informally about the road conditions, about the possibility of a railroad coming to the area, and soon he was urged to run for the Illinois Legislature.

The man who first put this idea in Lincoln's mind was one of the earliest settlers of New Salem, mill owner and tavern keeper James Rutledge, who had a pretty daughter, Ann.

Within the year, circumstances change, the first steamboat comes up the river, and Lincoln is hired as pilot to steer it through the dangerous rapids. For the round-trip he received \$40, a sum which allowed him to choose between careers of pilot, store clerk, politician or soldier.

Elections were simple matters in those days. Lincoln, only 23 years old, was his own electioneer and canvasser. He went from farm to farm, lending a hand with the work, and taking part in the wrestling matches and drinking bouts at the local inns where the candidate was invited to mount one of the tables and speak.

His great strength impressed the

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farmers, along with his yarn-spinning. He stuck with local issues in his high-pitched voice. What political party he joined did not matter very much. Like his father and cousin, he called himself a Democrat until he was 20. Henry Clay's brilliant speeches and Webster's logic and pathos changed him into a Whig.

When Lincoln was 23 he ended his first speech with the words: "My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the internal improvements system and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same."

In the Black Hawk War, Lincoln was chosen captain of his company

in the volunteer army of 1,600 men. He did not kill a single enemy, and returned home to find he had lost the election. In the New Salem precinct, however, he received 277 votes out of 300. His friends had voted for him.

To earn a living, he went back to the store business with a partner and became postmaster, the main source of his income for four years.

Elections to the Illinois Legislature were held every two years and Lincoln ran for office. He was elected and re-elected again and again, serving as a member of the State Assembly of Illinois for eight years continuously from age 25 to 32.

By his second campaign, Lincoln had become a politician. He had learned how to write careful letters and make set speeches. When the other side publicly attacked him, he hit back. The moving of the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield was a great victory for Lincoln.

By the age of 30, in his third term as legislator, Lincoln became involved in the presidential election and spoke to audiences of thousands. He improved his natural talents as an orator and learned to vary his style to suit his audience. He was regarded as one of the ablest of the Whig speakers in that campaign.

Lincoln set his sight on

Washington after serving eight years in the Illinois Legislature. He decided to run for a seat in Congress instead of seeking re-election. He had been married a year, and it was presumed Mary's ambitions influenced his decision.

But Lincoln had to wait four years more before he was nominated for Congress. The nation was faced with the annexation of Texas, slavery, and war with Mexico. Lincoln supported the Whig Party and Clay, whose Democratic rival, Polk, favored Texas as a slave state.

Lincoln's first blow against slavery was a Bill to Abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia. However, the luxury-loving society of Washington was not interested in his bill, and kept it from passing.

It was 12 years before Lincoln went back to Washington. The Whigs, opponents of war, wanted the victorious Gen. Taylor as president. The Democrats were behind the less popular Gen. Cass. This gave Lincoln fuel for some of his hottest political speeches.

Although he could barely read or write, Taylor was elected. Shields became senator in Lincoln's place, and Lincoln went back to Springfield much to the sorrow of his ambitious wife.

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Lincoln plays practical joke on Terre Haute travelers

1's FEB 12 1989

Col. Thomas H. Nelson could always be depended upon to tell the story of his first meeting with Abraham Lincoln. On one occasion he told this story at an Old Settlers meeting held at the old opera house.

It seems he and Judge Abram Hammond, who was later Indiana's governor, planned to travel from Terre Haute to Indianapolis in a stagecoach. This was in the spring of 1849, before railroads, and the journey took one whole day.

Before dawn the stagecoach arrived in front of the Terre Haute House. As the two gentlemen were about to step in, they discovered the entire back seat was occupied by a tall, gloomy individual whose head stuck out one side of the coach, while his feet hung out the other.

He was the sole occupant and was sleeping soundly. Hammond slapped him on the shoulder and asked if he had chartered the stage for the day.

Now wide awake, the stranger replied, "Certainly not," and at once took the front seat after politely asking the gentlemen to take the place of honor and comfort, which they did.

When it was daylight, the two looked over their traveling companion. An odd-looking fellow, they observed, dressed in a well-worn and ill-fitting suit of bombazine, without vest or cravat, and a two-bit palm straw hat on the back of his head.

Historically speaking



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They judged his very prominent features as dull and without expression. Believing this was a rare chance for some fun, the two men began to "quiz." According to Nelson, they discovered the stranger was "greener" and a better subject for fun than they expected. They got off many jokes and "sells," according to Nelson, and he took them all with the utmost innocence and good nature, joining in the laughter even at his own expense. He seemed to be rather awed in the presence of such eminent men.

At noon they stopped at a wayside hostelry for dinner. It was raining and the ground was

muddy. The stranger jumped down from the coach, entered the inn and returned with a plank and an umbrella. He held the umbrella for both while he walked in the rain.

When dinner was announced, the gentlemen took their seats. In a patronizing way, Hammond invited the stranger to sit down and eat. He sat on a small chair with his hat under his arm during the meal.

When he was asked if he had ever been in a big town like Terre Haute before, he told that several years ago he had driven an ox-wagon of movers through Terre Haute on their way from Bloomington, Ind., to Paris, for which he was paid \$3.50. He also said he had been in Washington City (D.C.), but he didn't know much about it as he did not move in the same circles of society as his distinguished companions.

On the subject of the comet then agitating the scientific world, Nelson talked on and on about what he knew about it. Lincoln asked what was going to be the upshot of this comet business? Nelson replied that in his opinion, the world would follow the darned thing off!

Late in the afternoon they arrived at Browning's Hotel in Indianapolis. The gentlemen went to their room to freshen up, and in a few minutes Nelson descended to the portico and noticed his former traveling companion in the center of an admiring group of lawyers. They were all laughing at the funny story he was telling in which

the names of Hammond and Nelson were mentioned several times.

Nelson called on Browning, the landlord, to inquire about the man who was the center of attention. He was told it was Abe Lincoln, the greatest practical joker on the continent, who came from Illinois.

Nelson rushed upstairs and told Hammond that they would be the laughing stock of the whole state, that their greenhorn friend was no less than Abe Lincoln from Illinois, who was entertaining legal friends with an account of his journey.

Hammond gathered up his duds, pushed them into his carpet bag, and left the hotel by the back door, going to the Palmer House where he stayed out of sight for several days. As fate would have it, when Lincoln arrived at Indianapolis on his way to be sworn in as president of the United States, Hammond was governor of Indiana. He remembered the famous journey, and fearing ridicule, he discreetly left the city and did not return until after Lincoln's departure.

Nelson had many opportunities after the stagecoach ride to cultivate Lincoln's acquaintance and friendship, and was active in the campaign to get him nominated and elected to office. Before leaving his home for Washington, Lincoln asked Usher and Nelson to be invited to accompany him. They agreed to join him at Indianapolis.

The presidential party had already arrived when they got there, and they were informed that the president-elect was having supper in the dining room. Passing through, they saw that every seat at the numerous tables was occupied, but they failed to see Lincoln.

As they were nearing the door to the hotel's office, a long arm reached out to Nelson's shoulder, and a shrill voice exclaimed, "Hello! Nelson, do you think, after all, that the world is going to follow the darned thing off?" It was Lincoln, reminding him of their previous conversation about the famous comet.

Valley heritage

Clark, Dorothy

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Col. Thompson called Lincoln 'best and most illustrious' of all men

APR 16 1989

Colonel ...hard Wiggington Thompson's handwritten speech "delivered before an assemblage of the citizens of Terre Haute upon the assassination of Abraham Lincoln," was loaned to me by his granddaughter, Harriet H. Kean.

At that time, over 20 years ago, the old manuscript was quite legible, the ink very dark on 42 pages of legal-size paper still in excellent condition in spite of its age. The manuscript was undated, but from its content I could judge the speech had been given after Lincoln's funeral train had stopped briefly in Terre Haute. Col. Thompson mentioned standing "by the side of the sarcophagus which contained Lincoln's earthly remains, in this city."

Thompson's speech begins: "In any group of American statesmen we should all, by common consent, assign the first place to him who won and merited the title of Father of His Country, because of the wisdom he displayed in laying the foundations of the Government.

"And while we are prepared to bestow unlimited praise upon multitudes of others who have served the country faithfully and well, it is not claiming too much to say of Abraham Lincoln that, in rescuing the nation from its imminent peril, he deserves to be ranked with the best and most illustrious of them all.

"In thus speaking of him — in these terms of eulogy — I realize that I may not entirely escape the charge of partiality, on account of our personal relations, which were

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such as probably to lessen the value of my opinions. Nevertheless, a successfully drawn portrait of his life, tracing it from the humblest obscurity and poverty to which he was born, displaying the hardships he overcame, his indomitable courage in adversity, the defects of his early education, his self-acquisition of knowledge, and the difficulties he overcame in the achievement of success, would furnish a bright and pleasant perspective of a career which, if not in all respects perfect, has so few spots and blemishes as not to mar the harmony of its properties . . ."

Col. Thompson reminded his audience of the changing times. "There was scarcely one lawyer

where there are now multitudes. These were required to travel horseback from court to court, and through cold, rain and sunshine, to put up with rough fare, to contend against high water, and to carry the law in their heads, for there was no room for books in their saddle-bags, a useful article which some of this audience have never seen.

"The lawyers of this day know nothing about the difficulties then encountered by their professional brethren; nor can they ever know from experience. Those times cannot return, and as they have passed away, the early lawyers have nearly all gone to their final rest. In this State I know but one besides myself who survives, and he, like myself, has long since laid aside the professional harness.

"I never met Lincoln at the bar, he having practiced in the tier of counties in Illinois which lie west of the Wabash River, and I in those upon the east. But we knew each other as well as it was possible for those who had never met; perhaps better, because by messages which passed between us, he had learned that we were both born in the same year (1809), a fact which created kindred sympathies in the minds of each of us."

Col. Thompson then went on to tell about Lincoln's abilities as a lawyer, leading up to the time when Lincoln entered the field of national politics in 1847 as a member of the Congressional House of Representatives.

He went on to say, "Then it was that the circle of his influence began to enlarge. As I was also a member of that House, we there

met for the first time. We needed no introduction, but came together with a degree of cordiality never afterwards slackened or disturbed.

"... In the discussion of the constitutional protection of slavery in the States where it existed, he said: 'We must not interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists, because the Constitution forbids it, and the general welfare does not require us to do so . . . But we must prevent the outspreading of the institution, because neither the Constitution nor the general welfare requires us to extend it.'

Col. Thompson went on to speak of Lincoln's election to the presidency, his inaugural address, the secession of the southern states from the Union, the beginning of the Civil War, always referred to as War of the Rebellion, and the Emancipation Proclamation.

He quoted Lincoln as saying this about the freeing of the slaves: "I would save the Union. I would save it in the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored, the nearer the Union will be the Union as it was. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object is to save the Union, and not either to save or destroy slavery."

"If I could save the Union without freeing a slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because it helps to save the Union, and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union . . ."

Again linking Washington and Lincoln, Col. Thompson closed his speech with these words: "He who fails to imitate the patriotic example they have left will not be held guiltless in the estimation of coming generations . . . an unbroken Union as their rightful inheritance."

Panama Canal connection

President named local man to oversee U.S. interests

SEP 09 1990
C. Clark, Dorothy

One of Terre Haute's most prominent citizens, Richard Wiggington Thompson (1809-1900), resigned his cabinet post as Secretary of the Navy, which he held from March 1877 to December 1880 under President Rutherford B. Hayes, to take charge of the affairs of the Panama Canal Co. in this country.

The subject of many studies and surveys since 1534, perhaps no single piece of work performed by the hand of man has so changed commerce as has the Panama Canal.

In 1819, a resolution was offered in the Ohio Senate proposing to connect the waters of the Gulf of Mexico with the Pacific Ocean by a canal. The project was considered visionary by many, and a majority of the Ohio Senate opposed Gen. Joseph Foos' resolution.

Foos published a small pamphlet after this vote in which he proves the practicability and importance of the proposed canal.

"It was known that Lake Nicaragua is about 170 miles long, and empties itself into the Atlantic by the San Juan, which is about 90 miles in length; and that the distance from the Gulf of Papogayo, on the Pacific, to the Lake of Nicaragua is about 12 miles... but no survey of the country has been made."

Following the publication of the pamphlet, Foos received the field notes of an actual survey of Central America, made under its authority by Don Manuel Antonis de la Cuda, first alcade of the city of New Grenada.

From those notes, Foos constructed a map showing how a

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canal 12 miles in length could connect Lake Nicaragua with the Pacific affording safe ship navigation from one ocean to the other without locks.

Foos proved that the Atlantic is 17 feet higher than the Pacific, that the fall of the San Juan River averaged about one foot per mile, and that Lake Nicaragua was 107 feet higher than the Pacific.

By cutting a canal from the lake to the Pacific, a distance of 12 miles, the descent would be 107 feet, according to Foos. He predicted the water would rush from the lake into the Pacific and soon wear the canal to a level with the bottom of the lake.

There were those who reasoned that the river, by this process, would soon become dry, but Foos disagreed. He argued that the Atlantic being 17 feet higher than the Pacific, its water, assisted by the trade winds, would rush up the channel of the San Juan and in 53 hours.

He believed all the waters on the globe would be restored to an

equilibrium, and the Gulf stream, instead of coasting along the American continent, would take its course through the San Juan and the canal.

La Cuda had found four volcanoes within an area of 50 miles. A town to be called Hebron was laid out at the junction of the proposed canal with the Pacific. The volcano in the rear of the town would completely supersede the necessity of oil and gas to light the streets. A railroad to Mexico was planned to be built as soon as the canal was completed.

Needless to say, La Cuda's plans were not carried out in spite of his maps and his friends in Washington. His theories were in error.

Simon Bolivar hired an English surveyor in 1827 to survey the route. In 1835 the United States sent Charles Biddle to investigate possible water or railroad routes across the isthmus. He obtained a concession for a railroad.

A few years later, in 1838, a company of Frenchmen obtained a similar concession, and a report that a summit pass of 37 feet above sea level caused the French government to make another survey to correct this error.

A lock canal with a summit level of about 160 feet above sea level, a tunnel of 3½ miles through the divide, and 18 locks were required to make the lift.

The government of Colombia waited until May 1876 to give to the French Canal Co. the concession under which the first canal work was done, although the Panama Railroad was built in 1850-1855, and other surveys had

been made by the U.S. government in 1854 and 1866. While the French were at work on the canal, many studies were made of the project by officers of the U.S. Navy.

About three months before the term of President Hayes expired, Thompson accepted the position of chairman of the American Committee of the Panama Canal Co., which he held for nine years.

He purchased the Panama Railroad Co. with a check which was the largest single check ever issued in any business transaction of this country.

After this purchase, he was made vice president of the railroad company with a large salary, not \$1 of which he ever drew, believing that his salary from the canal company was sufficient to pay for his services. That salary was three times that of a cabinet officer. The last three years of this connection with the canal company, he voluntarily reduced his salary one-half.

When the Panama Canal Co. in Paris went bankrupt, this ended Thompson's connection with them. Believing that American contractors digging the canal on contract would complete the work in a shorter time and for less money than the French were paying, he tried to convince the Paris company, but his advice was not taken.

The United States took over the Panama Canal project in 1904, and the first ship passed through the 50-mile-long canal in 1914.

The name "Panama" is supposed to have come from an Indian word meaning a place abounding in fish. Tradition tells us that the town was built on the site of an Indian fishing village.

Living by the law

John P. Usher earned fame as top-notch attorney

TS SEP 23 1990

It was a fall day in 1840 when the editor of the Gazette was standing on the corner of Second and Cherry streets in Terre Haute. He saw a tall, fair-haired, rosy-cheeked young man seated in a one-horse buggy drive to the entrance of Cherry Street of the law office of William D. Griswold. He stopped, took a box of books, and entered the office.

All the bystanders reported seeing the man. His hair was blonde, almost to whiteness. His clear, light-blue eyes were sparkling and restless. His presence was commanding, his step elastic, and he seemed every inch a man.

The question ran from mouth to mouth: "Who is this young man?" And the answer came: "He is the law partner of Mr. Griswold, and his name is John P. Usher."

This was Usher's first appearance in Terre Haute as a lawyer. The partnership being formed, the firm of Griswold & Usher soon became one of the best known in this section of Indiana.

Usher applied himself to the books and his office, an earnest and hard-working student. He enjoyed digging out the intricacies of the law. No question was too abstruse for him and no case too complicated that he could not find the true issue involved.

No lawyer ever practiced who was more industrious. He worked early and late and always came into court thoroughly prepared. He was seldom taken by surprise, and when his cases were called for trial, he was always ready. He never

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gave up a case as long as there was legal plank to stand on, said one of his colleagues.

With this start in professional life, in a few years Usher ranked among the foremost members of the bar — right up there with Samuel Judd, U.F. Linder, E.W. McGaughey, James Hughs, Amory Kinney, C.W. Barbour, R.W. Thompson, and his first partner, Griswold.

His legal practice soon became large and lucrative. There was hardly an important case tried in this part of the state in which he was not engaged.

During this early part of his career, Usher met Abraham Lincoln at the bar, and measured swords with him. Lincoln admired Usher, and Usher thought Lincoln the epitome of common sense.

In the courtroom, Usher was unrivaled. He was alert, and seldom bested by an adversary. He was able to expound his case with

force to the judge and jury.

The Gazette editor remarked that "woe be to the witness who dishonestly undertook to avoid telling the whole truth when he was examining him. He might as well have hoped to avoid a stroke of lightning from the clouds. Usher was sure to make him tell the truth."

Usher was an excellent judge of human nature. For more than 20 years he practiced his profession in Terre Haute, and once served the people of Vigo County in the state legislature, where he greatly distinguished himself.

He ran for Congress in this district against John G. Davis, but was defeated. When the Civil War began, Gov. Morton made him attorney general of the state, and he became the legal advisor of the "Great War Governor."

When Lincoln became president, Usher was appointed assistant secretary of the interior, and when Caleb B. Smith retired as secretary of the interior, Usher was appointed to succeed him, and became a member of Lincoln's cabinet, remaining there until after Lincoln's assassination.

Usher became the attorney of some of the great railroads in the West, and made his home at Lawrence, Kan., where he lived until his untimely death on April 13, 1889.

Born Jan. 9, 1816, in Brookfield, Madison County, N.Y., John Palmer Usher was a descendant of Hezekiah Usher, an English bookseller who died in 1676 in

Boston, where he had lived since 1646.

Usher's great-great-grandfather, John Usher, was lieutenant governor of New Hampshire from 1692 to 1697, and was reappointed in 1702. His father was Nathaniel Usher, and his mother, Lucy Palmer, was the daughter of John Palmer of Stonington, Conn.

Usher studied law in the office of Henry Bennett of New Berlin, N.Y., and was admitted to practice in the chancery courts of New York in 1839. He was admitted to practice in the common-law courts of that state on the next day. During the year 1840, Usher moved to Rockville and shortly thereafter came to Terre Haute where he retained him home until 1865.

In 1844 he married Margaret Patterson, daughter of Gen. Arthur Patterson, and had four sons. His Terre Haute home was located on the southside of Ohio Street between Sixth and Seventh, about across from where the Goodie Shop Cafeteria is now. When he moved to Kansas, he sold the home to Herman Hulman.

The story was told about a newspaper owner and hotel proprietor who became involved in a controversy with Usher. In an editorial he denounced him as haughty and fastidious.

Usher wrote him a good-natured letter in reply. Among other things, he said, "I do not think I am haughty, for I always ride in the smoking car. And I know I am not fastidious, for I once stopped three days at your hotel."

Col. Thompson lived at Spring Hill Farm

TS FEB 07 1993

Clark, Dorothy

Just 93 years ago, on Feb. 9, 1900, Indiana's "Grand Old Man," Col. Richard Wigginton Thompson, passed away. He had lived for 93 years, and was only four months younger than Abraham Lincoln.

"He was the last survivor of the old school of public men who grew up in the backwoods and went from log cabin to the halls of the legislature," said his son-in-law, Judge D.W. Henry. "He was the last link in the chain which bound the fathers of the Republic to their fourth generation sons."

The Kansas City Star wrote: "It is a wonderful commentary on the growth of the United States whose population is rapidly nearing 80 million, that Richard W. Thompson, who died at Terre Haute, Ind., has seen all the presidents of the American republic with the exception of two — Washington and Adams. Thus the history of the greatest nation on the globe has been comprised almost within the lifetime of one man."

Spring Hill Farm was best known as the mansion of Col. Thompson. It was built by William C. Linton of Philadelphia, sometime before 1822 and 1825. He brought the house plans with him from the East.

Many alterations were made during the years of its occupancy, both in the building and in its immediate surroundings, yet it could be recognized readily as the old New England style of architecture.

Facing the road were three hills. The house was built on the middle hill. Many loads of soil were hauled in to re-shape these hills according to the wishes of the owner.

A brick plant was installed in

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the woods back of the hills, and all the bricks used in the construction of this mansion were made there.

The brick mason who laid the bricks was Thomas Durham, father of Lyman Durham of Prairieton Road. He told of an incident that happened while the masonry was in progress.

A fellow with a buckskin purse, one of those held together with two rings, was seen "resting" on the sandbank in an intoxicated condition on Sunday. He lost his money in the sand.

"The next morning," according to Durham, "the sand hauler hauled the money, the mortar man mixed it, the hod-carrier carried it, then father found it on his trowel. The three dollars were picked from the mortar and given to the owner a few days later."

The plaster was made of ground mussel shells and was very hard. Anyone who ever tried to drive a nail in it discovered this fact. The walls of the house were so thick that different families had used the window sills as tables.

This beautiful old home had enormously large rooms. All the downstairs rooms had fireplaces.

An immense fireplace was in the kitchen.

The south wing had no connection with the rest of the house. It was built and used as a school room for the two daughters of the Lintons. A governess was brought out from Philadelphia to teach them and two neighborhood girls who came for instruction.

Many prominent families owned and occupied the Spring Hill Farm including the family of William J. Ball, Col. R.W. Thompson, and, at one time, A.M. Harrison lived there.

It was said that the first furrow in Vigo County was turned on the Spring Hill Farm. This honor was always contested over the years. One author said the first furrow was turned by Samuel Middleton, Peter Mallory, and an unknown man in 1810 on the land later known as Spring Hill Farm. These men planted several acres of corn, but were driven off by Indians and returned to Vincennes.

The following year, however, Middleton returned with Harrison's army and aided in the building of Fort Harrison. Peter Mallory settled in Fayette Township.

Joseph Liston told that he had the distinction of turning the first furrow in Vigo County in the year 1811 on a farm between Terre Haute and Riley. It has been suggested that Joseph Liston was the "other man."

Col. Thompson and his family moved out to Spring Hill Farm in 1864. Seven years previous, William J. Ball had bought the place. Ball was the civil engineer for the Wabash & Erie Canal.

Originally there had been a little stoop at the front door. Ball

built a wonderful porch with Doric columns. "It was so large that two cotillions could be danced at one time," according to Virginia Henry, youngest daughter of the Thompsons.

Ball also planted a fine orchard which bore fruit for the first time the year the Thompsons moved there. The two orchards furnished wonderful apples marketed principally in the form of cider vinegar.

Col. Thompson was a lover of pure bred stock and necessarily raised his own feed. The wheat field was at the back, the corn field at the side, while across the road was a 20-acre field known as the Little Meadow where the boys kept their livestock.

"My father was a healthy amn," Henry said, "but his doctor advised him to get outdoors more often. That's why we moved."

"Father had a magnificent horse named General," she said. "Every day he would ride General to Terre Haute and put him in the alley until evening. I was 10 years old when we went to the country, and I learned to ride horses, too."

"My father liked corn bread," she continued. "He made a large skillet which was used in the large fireplace in the kitchen. The skillet had a flat lid with a curved edge so coals could be put on top the lid. In this was baked the 'best corn bread in the country,' as father used to say."

"Also there was a set of very heavy old waffle irons with long handles. These irons were poked between the foresticks in the fire and turned over. Like the corn bread, these were 'the best waffles ever made'."

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Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Land of Lincoln

Honest Abe's family sought better conditions in Illinois

Ts DEC 08 1991

After living 13 of 14 years in Indiana, Thomas Lincoln and his second wife, Sally Johnston, became dissatisfied with their location. The country continued to be unhealthy, and the only way to extend their fields for farming would require a great amount of labor to remove the timber.

They had heard of the prairies of Illinois, and decided to send Dennis Hanks, a relative of Mrs. Lincoln, to examine the new country. He returned and reported favorably. Lincoln disposed of his interests in Indiana and started in search of a home March 3, 1830.

They entered the state of Illinois by crossing the Wabash River at Vincennes, and continued their course to the northwest through Lawrenceville, near the site of the present town of Newton, in Jasper County, and through Charleston in Coles County.

The roads — and the country — were very muddy, and it took them 15 days to travel about 200 miles. Abraham drove one of the ox teams, and was afterwards remembered by some of the people along the route because he was so tall.

Thomas Lincoln selected a spot on the north side of Sangamon River, where timber and prairie were convenient to each other. It was in Macon County, about 10 miles west of Decatur. Abraham assisted his father in building a log cabin, and in splitting rails and fencing 10 acres of land. After this, he worked for hire among the

Historically speaking



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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

neighbors. A part of his work at that time was breaking 50 acres of prairie with four yoke of oxen.

The expectation that their new home would be a more healthy location proved to be a sad disappointment. In the autumn of the first year, nearly all of the new emigrants were down with fever ague.

The winter of 1830-31 is remembered as the winter of the "deep snow." I quote from an address by President Sturtevant, before the Old Settlers' Association at Jacksonville: "In the interval between Christmas 1830 and January 1831 snow fell over all central Illinois to a depth of fully 3 feet on a level.

"Then came a rain," he continued, "with weather so cold that it froze as it fell, forming a crust of ice over this 3 feet of snow, nearly if not quite strong enough to bear a man, and finally, over this crust of ice there was a few inches of very light snow. The clouds passed

away, and the wind came down upon us from the northwest with extraordinary ferocity. For weeks, certainly for not less than two weeks, the mercury in the thermometer tube was not, on any one morning, higher than 12 degrees below zero. This snow fall produced constant sleighing for nine weeks."

In the spring of 1831, the Lincoln family retraced their steps in part, leaving Macon County for a better locality in Coles County, not far from Charleston. That continued to be the home of Thomas Lincoln until his death on Jan. 17, 1851, at the age of 73.

Abraham Lincoln never made his home in his father's house after the removal of the family to Coles County. During the winter of the deep snow, he made an engagement for himself, his step brother, John D. Johnston, and John Hanks, a relative of his mother, to take a flat boat to New Orleans.

They were to meet their employer at Springfield, which they did about the first of March, to learn the enterprise was a failure, because the employer was unable to obtain a boat.

An arrangement then was made for the three to build a boat on the south bank of the Sangamon River, about seven miles northwest from Springfield. After the boat was finished, it was floated down below New Salem in Menard County where it was loaded for the trip, a part of the cargo being live hogs.

The voyage was a success, the

running of the boat and selling the cargo being under the direction of Abraham Lincoln. On his return, he became a clerk in Offutt's store, the man who had outfitted the boat. The store was at New Salem, a town now extinct.

In spite of all the hard labor he had performed, Lincoln was a constant reader, making the best choice he could from the scanty supply of books available. While clerking in the store, he borrowed a copy of Kirkham's grammar, and mastered its intricacies. During this period in the store, people began to call him "Honest Abe."

After working about a year, his employer failed, and he was thrown out of work. In 1832, the Indian war, or Blackhawk War, broke out, and Lincoln, now 23 years old, enlisted for the fight.

When the time came for election of a captain for his company, Lincoln was put forward as a candidate without any aspirations for the office on his part. Opposing him was a Mr. Kirkpatrick, a former employer of Lincoln's.

The candidates took positions some distance from the men, and at a given signal, they fell to the rear of their favorite. Lincoln received about three-fourths of the votes, and in later years often referred to this incident, confessing that no later success gave him half the satisfaction that this election did.

Capt. Lincoln's company did a great amount of marching, but was not in any battle.

Valley heritage

Col. Thompson became secretary of Navy

Ts FEB 14 1993

This column continues the account of Col. and Mrs. R.W. Thompson and their country home, Spring Hill Farm, built 1822-25 by William C. Linton of Philadelphia. The Thompsons took possession in 1867.

The Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad was constructed through the property, and the engines took on water from the water tank there, but Thompson didn't charge for the water.

According to their youngest daughter, Mrs. Virginia Henry, "Spring Hill Farm was rightly named because those hills are full of springs. Father and Mother thought they would like a lake between two hills. The Evansville and Terre Haute Company, in appreciation for the water privileges, sent their section hands over to dig the lake . . . 10 feet deep and quite wide enough for two boats."

Mrs. Thompson was a natural gardener (her maiden name was Gardiner). She kept the lawns beautifully landscaped with trees, shrubs and an abundance of flowers. She learned that Henry Pfleegan once had lived in the caretaker's house at Spring Hill. He told her about a spring house on the grounds.

This was news to her. Several weeks later, when some cedar trees were being transplanted on the north side of the south hill, workmen ran into water. Their

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spades struck something that felt like logs. Mrs. Thompson ordered the soil removed from the logs, and the old puncheon floor was uncovered. Another spring house was built on the site using the old floor.

Col. and Mrs. Thompson entertained many prominent people at Spring Hill Farm. He was well known on state and national levels, was kindly, lovable, with a pleasing voice, convincing and entertaining as a frequent orator, and had a fastidious personal appearance.

Early environment and training were responsible for forming him. Born in Virginia in 1809, he had a liberal education. First he entered a classical school, and later a tutor was hired to instruct him in history and literature. He read omnivorously and acquired a wonderful library in

his long lifetime.

Not yet 21 years of age, Thompson took a trip on horseback to Tennessee to check on a farm owned by his father. The West appealed to him, and here he decided to make his home.

In 1831 he worked as a clerk in a store in Louisville, Ky. From there he traveled to Bedford, arriving with only 50 cents in his pocket. Again he found work as a clerk and spent the nights for a year and a half sleeping on the counter, using a bolt of cloth for his bed and another bolt for his pillow.

To accommodate a friend, he purchased a small law library. He became interested and decided to study law for his life's work. In a few years he was admitted to the bar, and in 1836 he was elected to the Indiana Senate. During the administration of Gov. Noble, he was appointed lieutenant-governor. The title of "Colonel" was given to him at this time.

From that time on, Col. Thompson was in public affairs. He did not seek public office, but many government jobs were offered to him. Under President Hayes, Col. Thompson became Secretary of the Navy. He probably was the most widely known office holder in Terre Haute.

The stories of his memories of all the presidents of the United

States except the first two have been printed in his book, "Recollections of Sixteen Presidents from Washington to Lincoln."

I'm indebted to John G. Morey for finding out more about this man, Col. Richard Wigginton Thompson.

In the book, "The U.S. Navy," published by American Heritage in 1977, there's a portrait of Col. Thompson. Next to it is this caption: "President Rutherford B. Hayes' worst cabinet appointment was Secretary of the Navy Thompson, an extreme political partisan, a railroad lobbyist, and a well-known, anti-Catholic pamphleteer. For a particularly flagrant conflict of interest, Hayes informed him, 'that your resignation [unoffered] is accepted.' The secretaryship was at its lowest ebb."

On the preceding page of the same book is the following: "Richard W. Thompson of Indiana was said to be so densely ignorant of naval affairs as to have expressed surprise upon learning that ships were hollow."

When his death occurred in 1900, he was 91 years old. The local newspapers printed column after column about his busy life, etc. There was no mention of his service in the U.S. Navy as having been a less than successful one. Legends seldom have feet of clay.

Clark woman friend of Abe Lincoln

TS FEB 21 1993

A yellowish and brittle newspaper clipping was given to me when Abraham Lincoln's birthday was approaching.

A reporter for The Herald in El Paso, Texas, had interviewed a Mrs. Vandevanter, a former resident of Marshall, Ill. It was reprinted there for its interest to older residents of Marshall, and, now, generations later, I'll quote from it again.

Old Grandma Vandevanter was 88 years old, according to the Texas reporter, and was "not as spry as she was, but still able to help set up breakfast ... bright-eyed and chirrupy."

"Abe Lincoln and his wife were among the best friends our family had," she said, "and he was the finest man I ever knew."

"I was married then and we were living in Marshall, Ill. My people lived there, too. My father had known Lincoln for years."

"When Abraham made his campaign, he brought his wife to our house. Mrs. Lincoln stayed with us while he was away on his speaking trips. He had visited back and fourth a good deal. Oh yes, many's the time Abe Lincoln ate at our house, and we ate at his."

"I helped Mrs. Lincoln put many a piece in the loom. She wove all their clothes, even

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Abraham's shirts. He wore flannel shirts in the winter and flaxen shirts in the summer, white as snow. His wife wove every one of them.

"A fine, honest man was Abraham Lincoln, never irritated in an argument. His opponent, Douglas, was as peppery as could be."

"My father was sheriff in Marshall. He was a Democrat. Lincoln being a Republican, they had many an argument about politics."

"Now, Abe, you know that such and such is true," my father would say, and go on at a great rate.

"Well, Uncle John," Abe would answer, "I just can't see it that way. But never mind. You know there has to be two sides to

a thing. It's differences of opinion that make politics, lawsuits and horse races."

"One thing they never agreed on was freeing the slaves. My father opposed the idea of just taking slaves away from their owners."

"Abe, suppose somebody came and took your mare and buggy and started off down the road, what would you do?" he asked by way of illustration.

"I'd go get her back if I could," said Abe, admitting the point. He was that fair and honest."

"It was never Lincoln's idea to set the slaves free without compensating their owners or to keep them in this country, either. He talked about this one time at our house just before he went to Washington as president."

"Give me 10 years," he said, "and I'll send the slaves across where they belong [Africa] and put a guard of troops around to see that nobody brings any of them away from there. And I'll pay their owners for every one of them, babies and all, at a fair price. The payments will be made in yearly installments until the debt is paid off."

"A great president and a great man was Abraham Lincoln."

When he dropped in, he'd help me do anything there was to do around the house. He'd even wash the dishes."

The writer continued:

"Life had carried Mrs. Vandevanter far since the days when the Great Emancipator, in homespun clothes, sat at her table and asked for another helping of sidemeat."

"She had children, kept house and moved about, to Oklahoma and Texas and finally to El Paso. Her children were all grown, with children of their own at the time of the interview. She was living with a daughter."

"Twice married, her first husband died and afterward she married his brother, a Civil War soldier. He, too, was gone. Her back was bent with past labors and joys and sorrows. But her eyes were bright and she lived always for the dawning of the next day."

"Elderly, yes. Elderly, but never old was Grandma Vandevanter."

A little sleuthing in the "History of Clark County" revealed that John B. Briscoe was sheriff from 1858 to 1860. This might well have been Vandevanter's father. Can anyone add any information to the above?

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Community Affairs File

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Lincoln Way

Many opinions exist on family's path to Illinois

TS FEB 28 1993

Some people believe history is set in concrete. Others know that new findings change history. Good researchers tap into all possible sources.

So it was with the Illinois General Assembly when it authorized the Lincoln Way Commission to ascertain the route followed by the family of Abraham Lincoln in its migration from its Kentucky homeplace to the Sangamon River district near Decatur.

Gov. Deneen appointed Charles M. Thompson, Charles H. Rammelkamp and Otto L. Schmidt to serve on the commission. They visited the sites along the route from Gentryville in Spencer County to Decatur, Ill., before making their report.

The Lincolns and their relations left Gentryville on March 1, 1830. The group of 13 men, women and children were Dennis Hanks; wife Elizabeth; four children, Harriet, John, Sarah Jane and Nancy; Squire Hall; wife Matilda; son, John; Thomas Lincoln; wife, Sarah; son, Abraham; and stepson, John Johnson.

They traveled in three covered wagons, two drawn by oxen, and one by horses. There also were two saddle horses. The little party traveled about 15 miles a day. By March 15, they were near Decatur, about 320 miles from the starting point.

The Illinois Commission be-

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gan their research where the Lincolns crossed the Wabash River into Illinois. Kentucky and Indiana already had marked their portions of the journey.

All agreed the party passed through Vincennes. However, the editor of the Charleston Daily News insisted the party crossed the Wabash at Mount Carmel.

The commissioners found that the Lincoln party went from Vincennes to Russellville, Ill., by way of Bruceville into eastern Illinois. Dennis Hanks' daughter, Mrs. Chapman, told about crossing the Wabash on the second day after leaving Vincennes.

There is a tradition in Palestine, Ill., of the Lincoln party's having passed through there. In fact, Miss Ida M. Tarbell, in her book, "Life of Lincoln," stated that Lincoln once mentioned to friends that he recalled having

taken notice that "a large crowd was assembled in front of the land office at Palestine."

The Russellville-Palestine Road stretches northward from Palestine to York, and from York there appeared to have been an Indian trail leading northwest to what later was Melrose. Another trail led northward from York, two or three miles, then turned westward past old Fort Handy, joining the other trail near Melrose. In the opinion of the commission, the latter would have offered fewer obstacles to the party.

Abraham Harrison of Union, Ill., declared the party did go along the second trail, and the travelers remained all night with his family. The Harrisons and the Lincolns were friends in Kentucky.

Harrison said the party went from his home northward, without road or guide, to Grand View in Edgar County where they remained for some time. This statement was supported by H.C. Bell of Washington, D.C., who interviewed many Clark County pioneers on the subject. Mrs. Chapman denied the party went to Grand View.

The commission found, even assuming the party did not turn off as Mr. Harrison thought, they at least arrived at a point on what is now the National Road at the site of Martinsville. From this point, Mrs. Chapman

declared the party made its way up to what is now Greenup, Ill., and there crossed the Embarrass River.

She further stated the party passed through what is now Paradise Township of Coles County. Assuming the party was at Paradise, the commission found that several questions arose. Where did the party strike the Paris-Shelbyville Road? Did the party travel this road any distance, or did it go in a northwest direction to Macon County? Did the party go to Shelbyville, then to Macon County? Did the party go to Shelbyville, then to Decatur?

Some people believed the party would be inclined to take a northwesterly course from Coles County, thus missing the Kaskaskia bottoms as much as possible.

Judge J.O. Cunningham stated from personal knowledge that Mr. Lincoln once stood in front of the courthouse in Decatur. The entry was made by a road leading from the south near what became the Illinois Central Railroad right of way.

From Decatur to the Lincoln farm in Macon County, the route seems to have been located several years before the commission's appointment.

The conclusion of the commission was that it was advisable to investigate the "Lincoln Way" at every point.